LESSONS

FOR

CHILDREN.

PART II.

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PART II.

LESSON I.

The Iſraelites paſs over Jordan.

*NOW after the Death of Moſes the Servant of the Lord, the Lord ſpake unto Joſhua, the Son of Nun, ſaying,

Ariſe, go over this Jordan, thou and all this People, unto the Land which I do give to them.

There ſhall not any Man be able to ſtand before thee all the Days of thy Life. As I was with Moſes, ſo I will be with Thee: I will not fail thee nor forſake thee.

Be ſtrong and of a good Courage: for unto this People ſhalt thou divide for an Inheritance the Land which I ſware unto their Fathers.

Only be thou ſtrong and very courageous, that thou mayſt obſerve to do according to all the Law which Moſes my Servant commanded thee. Turn not from it, to the right or the left, that thou maſt proſper whereſoever thou goeſt.

This Book of the Law ſhall not depart out of thy Mouth, but thou ſhalt meditate therein Day and Night, that thou mayſt obſerve to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou ſhalt make thy Way proſperous, and then thou ſhalt have good Succeſs.

Have not I commanded thee? Be ſtrong and of a good Courage; be not afraid, neither be thou diſmay'd: For the Lord thy GOD is with thee, whitherſoever thou goeſt.

* *Joſhua*, c. 1. v. 1, &c.

† And Joſhua roſe early in the Morning, and came to Jordan, he and all the Children of Iſrael.

And Joſhua ſaid unto the People, Sanctify yourſelves: for to-morrow the Lord will do Wonders among you.

And the Lord ſaid unto Joſhua, this Day will I begin to magnify thee, in the Sight of all Iſrael.

And Joſhua ſaid unto the Children of Iſrael, Come hither, and hear the Words of the Lord your God.

Hereby ye ſhall know that the Living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out the Canaanites from before you.

Behold the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of all the Earth paſſeth over before you into Jordan.

And it ſhall come to paſs, as ſoon as the Soles of the Feet of the Prieſts that bear the Ark of the Lord, ſhall reſt in the Waters of Jordan, that the Waters of Jordan ſhall be cut off, and they ſhall ſtand upon an Heap.

And it came to paſs, when the People removed from their Tents, and the Prieſts bearing the Ark before the People:

And as they that bear the Ark were come unto Jordan, and their Feet were dipped in the Brim of the Water: (for Jordan overfloweth all his Banks, all the Time of Harveſt)

That the Waters which came down from above, ſtood and roſe up upon an Heap, and thoſe that came down toward the Sea of the Plain were cut off; and the People paſſed over right againſt Jericho.

And the Prieſts that bare the Ark of the Lord, ſtood firm on dry Ground in the Midſt of Jordan. And all the Iſraelites paſſed over on dry Ground, until all the People were paſſed clean over Jordan.

LESSON II.

The taking of Jericho.

‡ And when all the Kings of the Canaanites heard that the Lord had dried up the Waters of Jordan from before the Children of Iſrael, until they were paſſed

† c. 3. v. 1, &c. ‡ c. 5. v. 1, &c.

over,

over, their Heart melted, neither was there Spirit in them any more.

And the Children of Iſrael incamped in Gilgal, and they did eat of the old Corn of the Land.

And the Manna ceaſed on the Morrow after they had eaten of the Corn, neither had they Manna any more.

‖ Now Jericho was ſtraitly ſhut up, becauſe of the Children of Iſrael, none went out and none came in.

And the Lord ſaid unto Joſhua, See, I have given into thine Hand, Jericho and the King thereof, and the mighty Men of Valour.

And ye ſhall compaſs the City, all ye Men of War; thus ſhalt thou do ſix Days.

And the Seventh Day ye ſhall compaſs the City Seven Times, and the Prieſts ſhall blow with the Trumpets.

And it ſhall come to paſs, that when they make a long Blaſt, all the People ſhall ſhout with a great Shout, and the Wall of the City ſhall fall down flat, and the People ſhall aſcend up every Man ſtrait before him.

And Joſhua ſaid unto the People, Paſs on and compaſs the City. And when Joſhua had ſpoken, the ſeven Prieſts bearing the ſeven Trumpets of Rams-horns, paſſed on before the Lord, and blew with the Trumpets: and the Ark of the Lord follow'd them.

So the Ark of the Lord compaſſed the City, going about it once.

And Joſhua aroſe early in the Morning, and the Prieſts took up the Ark of the Lord.

And ſeven Prieſts bearing ſeven Trumpets before the Ark, went on continually, and blew with the Trumpets:

And the ſecond Day they compaſt the City once, and returned into the Camp; ſo they did ſix Days.

And on the ſeventh Day, they roſe early, about the Dawning of the Day, and compaſt the City after the ſame Manner, ſeven Times.

And at the ſeventh Time, when the People blew with the Trumpets, Joſhua ſaid unto the People, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the City.

So the People ſhouted when the Prieſts blew with

‖ c. 6. v. 1, &c.

the Trumpets. And it came to paſs, when the People heard the Sound of the Trumpet, and the People ſhouted with a great Shout, that the Wall fell down flat, ſo that the People went up into the City, every Man ſtreight before him, and they took the City.

And they utterly deſtroyed all that was in the City, both young and old, with the Edge of the Sword.

And they burnt the City with Fire, and all that was therein; only the Silver and the Gold, and the Veſſels of Braſs and of Iron, they put into the Treaſury of the Houſe of the Lord.

So the Lord was with Joſhua, and his Fame was noiſed throughout all the Country.

LESSON III.

The Sun and Moon ſtand ſtill.

§ Now when Adoni-zedek, King of Jeruſalem, had heard, how the Inhabitants of Gibeon had made Peace with Iſrael:

He feared greatly, becauſe Gibeon was a great City, as one of the Royal Cities.

Wherefore Adoni-zedek ſent unto Hoham King of Hebron, and unto Piram, King of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia, King of Lachiſh, and unto Debir, King of Eglon, ſaying,

Come up unto me and help me, that we may ſmite Gibeon; for it hath made Peace with the Children of Iſrael.

Therefore the five Kings of the Amorites, gather'd themſelves together, and went up, they and all their Hoſts, and encamped before Gibeon.

And the Men of Gibeon ſent unto Joſhua, ſaying, Come up unto us quickly and help us: for all the Kings of the Amorites that dwell in the Mountains, are gathered together againſt us.

So Joſhua came up from Gilgal, he and all the People of War with him.

§ c. 10. v. 1. &c.

And

And the Lord ſaid unto Joſhua, Fear them not; for I have deliver'd them into thine Hand.

Joſhua therefore came unto them ſuddenly, and went up from Gilgal all Night.

And the Lord diſcomfitted them before Iſrael, and ſlew them with a great Slaughter.

And as they fled before Iſrael, the Lord caſt down great Stones from Heaven upon them, and they died: they were more which died with Hail-ſtones, than they whom the Children of Iſrael ſlew with the Sword.

Then ſpake Joſhua to the Lord, in the Day when the Lord deliver'd up the Amorites before the Children of Iſrael, and he ſaid in the Sight of Iſrael, Sun, ſtand thou ſtill upon Gibeon, and thou, Moon in the Valley of Ajalon.

And the Sun ſtood ſtill, and the Moon ſtayed, until the People had avenged themſelves upon their Enemies. So the Sun ſtood ſtill in the midſt of Heaven, and haſted not to go down about a whole Day. *

And there was no Day like that, before or after it, that the Lord hearken'd unto the Voice of a † Man. For the Lord fought for Iſrael.

And Joſhua ſmote all the Country of the Hills and of the South, and of the Vale, and all their Kings. He left none remaining, but utterly deſtroyed all that breathed, as the Lord God of Iſrael commanded. ¶

LESSON IV.

Of Caleb, and of the two Tribes and a Half.

‖ And Caleb, the Son of Jephunneh, the Kenezite, ſaid unto Joſhua, Thou knoweſt the Thing that the Lord ſaid unto Moſes, the Man of God, concerning Me and Thee.

Forty Years old was I when Moſes, the Servant of the Lord ſent me from Kadeſh-barnea, to eſpy out the

* *See the Power of Faith! not in cauſing the Sun to ſtand ſtill. neſs, which was now full.*

† *that is, Not in this Thing;*

¶ *Becauſe of their Wicked-*

‖ c. 14, v. 6, &c.

Land:

Land: and I brought him Word again, as it was in mine Heart.

Nevertheleſs my Brethren that went up with me made the Heart of the People melt; but I wholly followed the Lord my God.

And Moſes ſware on that Day, ſaying, Surely, the Land whereon thy Feet hath trodden, ſhall be thine Inheritance, and thy Children's for ever; becauſe thou haſt wholly followed the Lord my God.

And now behold the Lord hath kept me alive as he ſaid, theſe forty and five Years, even ſince the Lord ſpake this Word unto Moſes, while the Children of Iſrael wander'd in the Wilderneſs. And now, lo I am this Day fourſcore and five Years old.

As yet I am as ſtrong this Day as I was in the Day that Moſes ſent me: as my Strength was then, even ſo is my Strength now for War, both to go out and to come in.

Now therefore give me this Mountain, whereof the Lord ſpake in that Day.

And Joſhua bleſſed him, and gave unto Caleb Hebron for an Inheritance.

* And the Lord gave unto Iſrael all the Land which he ſware to give unto their Fathers: and they poſſeſſed it and dwelt therein.

And the Lord gave them Reſt round about, according to all that he ſware unto their Fathers. And there ſtood not a Man of all their Enemies before them, the Lord delivered all their Enemies into their Hand.

There failed not ought of any good Thing which the Lord had ſpoken unto the Houſe of Iſrael: all came to paſs.

† Then Joſhua called the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manaſſeh, and ſaid,

Now the Lord your God hath given Reſt unto your Brethren as he promiſed them: therefore now return ye unto the Land of your Poſſeſſion, which Moſes gave you on the other Side Jordan.

But take diligent heed, to do the Commandment and the Law, which Moſes, the Servant of the Lord charged you to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his

* c. 21, v. 43, &c. † c. 22. v. 1, &c.

Ways,

Ways, and to keep his Commandments, and to cleave unto him and to ſerve him, with all your Heart and with all your Soul.

So Joſhua bleſſed them and ſent them away, and they went unto their Tents.

LESSON V.

Joſhua's Exhortation before his Death.

‡ And it came to paſs, a long time after the Lord had given Reſt unto Iſrael from all their Enemies,

That Joſhua called for all Iſrael and ſaid, I am old and ſtricken in Age:

Ye have ſeen all that the Lord your GOD hath done: be ye therefore very couragious, to do all that is written in the Book of the Law: turn not therefrom, to the Right-hand or to the left.

One Man of you ſhall chaſe a Thouſand; for the Lord your GOD, He it is that fighteth for you.

Take heed therefore that ye love the Lord your GOD, elſe, if ye do in any wiſe go back:

The Lord your GOD will no more drive out any of theſe Nations from before you: but they ſhall be Scourges in your Sides, and Thorns in your Eyes, till ye periſh from off this good Land.

And behold this Day, I am going the Way of all the Earth; and ye know in all your Hearts, that not one hath failed of all the good Things which the Lord your GOD ſpake concerning you.

But if ye tranſgreſs the Covenant of the Lord your GOD, then ſhall his Anger be kindled againſt you, and ye ſhall periſh quickly from off the good Land which he hath given unto you.

‖ And Joſhua gathered all Iſrael, and called for the Elders of Iſrael, and they preſented themſelves before GOD.

And Joſhua ſaid unto all the People, Thus ſaith the Lord GOD of Iſrael,

I have given you a Land for which ye did not labour, and Cities which ye built not, and ye dwelt in them.

‡ c. 23. v. 1, &c. ‖ c. 24, v. 1, &c.

Now

Now therefore fear the Lord, and ſerve him in Sincerity and in Truth.

And if it ſeem Evil unto you to ſerve the Lord chooſe you this Day whom ye will ſerve. But as for me and my Houſe, we will ſerve the Lord.

And the People anſwered and ſaid, God forbid that we ſhould forſake the Lord: for he it is that did thoſe great Signs in our Sight, and preſerved us in all the Way wherein we went: Therefore will we alſo ſerve the Lord; for he is our God.

And Joſhua ſaid unto the People, Ye cannot ſerve the Lord: For he is an holy God. He is a jealous God; if ye forſake the Lord, then he will turn and conſume you.

And the People ſaid unto Joſhua, Nay, but we will ſerve the Lord.

And Joſhua ſaid, Ye are Witneſſes againſt yourſelves that ye have choſen you the Lord to ſerve him. And they ſaid, We are Witneſſes. The Lord our God will we ſerve, and his Voice will we obey.

And Joſhua made a Covenant with the People that Day, and wrote theſe Words in the Book of the Law of God, and took a great Stone and ſet it up there under an Oak, and ſaid, Behold this Stone ſhall be a Witneſs unto us.

And after theſe Things, Joſhua the Servant of the Lord died, being an hundred and ten Years old.

And Iſrael ſerved the Lord all the Days of Joſhua, and all the Days of the Elders that over-lived Joſhua, and which had known all the Works of the Lord that he had done for Iſrael.

LESSON VI.

Of Gideon.

§ And the Children of Iſrael did Evil in the Sight of the Lord, and the Lord deliver'd them into the Hand of Midian.

And becauſe of the Midianites, the Children of Iſrael

§ *Judges*, c. 6. v. 1.

made

made them Dens which are in the Mountains and Caves and ſtrong Holds.

And when Iſrael had ſown, the Midianites came up and deſtroyed the Increaſe of the Earth, and left no Suſtenance for Iſrael neither Sheep, nor Ox nor Aſs.

For they came up as Graſhoppers for Multitude; for both they and their Camels were without Number.

And Iſrael was greatly impoveriſh'd becauſe of the Midianites, and the Children of Iſrael cried unto the Lord.

And there came an Angel of the Lord, and ſat under an Oak which pertain'd unto Joaſh the Abi-ezrite. And his Son Gideon threſhed Wheat by the Wine-preſs, to hide it from the Midianites.

And the Angel of the Lord ſaid unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty Man of Valour.

And Gideon ſaid unto him, O my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all his Miracles which our Fathers told us of, ſaying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?

And the Lord ſaid, Go, in this thy Might, and thou ſhalt ſave Iſrael from the Hand of the Midianites.

And he ſaid, O my Lord, wherewith ſhall I ſave Iſrael? Behold my Family is poor in Mannaſſeh, and I am the leaſt in my Father's Houſe.

And the Lord ſaid unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou ſhalt ſmite the Midianites as one Man.

And Gideon made ready a Kid and unleavened Cakes, and brought it out unto him.

And the Angel ſaid, Take the Fleſh and the unleavened Cakes, and lay them upon this Rock; and he did ſo.

Then the Angel of the Lord put forth the Staff that was in his Hand, and touched the Fleſh and the unleavened Cakes: And there roſe up Fire out of the Rock aud conſumed them. Then the Angel departed out of his Sight.

And the ſame Night the Lord ſaid unto him, Throw down the Altar of Baal ¶ that thy Father hath, and cut down the Grove.

¶ *An Idol of the* Canaanites.

Then

Then Gideon took ten Men of his Servants, and did as the Lord had ſaid unto him.

And when the Men of the City aroſe early in the Morning, behold the Altar of Baal was caſt down.

And they ſaid unto Joaſh, Bring out thy Son that he may die, becauſe he hath caſt down the Altar of Baal.

And Joaſh ſaid, Will ye plead for Baal? If he be a God, let him plead for himſelf.

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a Trumpet, and Abiezer * was gathered after him.

And he ſent Meſſengers throughout all Manaſſeh, and unto Aſher, and unto Zebulon, and unto Naphtali, and they came up to meet them.

LESSON VII.

The Overthrow of the Midianites.

† And Gideon ſaid unto God, If thou wilt ſave Iſrael by my Hand,

Behold I will put a Fleece of Wool in the Floor, and if the Dew be on the Fleece only, and it be dry upon all the Earth beſide, then ſhall I know that Thou wilt ſave Iſrael.

And he roſe up early on the Morrow and thruſt the Fleece together, and ringed out the Dew, a Bowl full of Water.

And Gideon ſaid unto God, Let not thine Anger be hot, and I will ſpeak but this once. I pray thee, let it now be dry on the Fleece only, and upon all the Ground let there be Dew.

And the Lord did ſo, for it was dry upon the Fleece only; and there was Dew on all the Ground.

‡ Then Gideon and all the People that were with him roſe up early, and the Hoſt of the Midianites were by the Hill of Moreh.

And the Lord ſaid unto Gideon, The People that are with thee are too many, for me to give the Midianites into their Hands: leaſt Iſrael vaunt themſelves againſt me, ſaying, Mine own Hand hath ſaved me.

* *The People of that Family.* † v. 36. ‡ c. 7. v. 1, &c.

Now therefore proclaim, ſaying, Whoſoever is fearful, let him return, and depart early from Mount Gilead. And there returned of the People twenty and two thouſand, and there remained ten thouſand.

And the Lord ſaid unto Gideon, The People are yet too many; bring them down unto the Water and I will try them.

So he brought them down unto the Water, and the Lord ſaid, Every one that lappeth of the Water with his Tongue, thou ſhalt ſet by himſelf.

And the Number of them that lapped, putting their Hand to their Mouth, were three hundred Men; but all the reſt of the People bow'd down upon their Knees to drink.

And the Lord ſaid, By theſe three hundred Men, will I deliver the Midianites into thine Hand; and let all the other People go every Man unto his Place.

So he ſent all the reſt of Iſrael, every Man to his Tent, and retained thoſe three hundred Men.

And he ſaid, Ariſe, for the Lord hath delivered into your Hand the Hoſt of Midian.

And he divided the three hundred Men into three Companies, and he put a Trumpet in every Man's Hand, with empty Pitchers and Lamps within the Pitchers.

And he ſaid unto them, Look on me, and when I come to the Outſide of the Camp, as I do, ſo ſhall ye do.

So Gideon and the three hundred Men that were with him came unto the Outſide of the Camp, * in the Beginning of the Middle-watch: And they blew the Trumpets and brake the Pitchers that were in their Hands.

And the three Companies blew the Trumpets and brake the Pitchers, and held the Lamps in their left Hands; and they cried, The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon!

And all the Hoſt ran and cried and fled. And the three hundred blew the Trumpets, and the Lord ſet every Man's Sword againſt his Fellow, even throughout all the Hoſt.

* *that is, at Midnight.*

† Thus was Midian ſubdued before the Children of Iſrael, ſo that they lifted up their Heads no more. And the Country was in Quietneſs forty Years, in the Days of Gideon.

And Gideon died in a good old Age, and was buried in the Sepulcher of Joaſh his Father.

LESSON VIII.

Of JEPHTHAH.

‖ And the Children of Iſrael did Evil again in the Sight of the Lord. And his Anger was hot againſt Iſrael, and he § ſold them into the Hands of the Children of Ammon, and they vexed and oppreſſed them eighteen Years.

And the Children of Iſrael cried unto the Lord, ſaying, We have ſinned againſt Thee; we have forſaken our GOD.

Then the Children of Ammon were gathered together, and incamped in Gilead.

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty Man of Valour. And his Brethren thruſt out Jephthah, and ſaid, Thou ſhalt not inherit in our Father's Houſe; for thou art the Son of a ſtrange Woman.

But when the Children of Ammon made War againſt Iſrael, the Elders of Iſrael went to fetch Jephthah out of the Land of Tob.

And they ſaid, Come and fight againſt the Children of Ammon, and be our Head over all the Inhabitants of Gilead.

Then Jephthah went with the Elders of Gilead, and the People made him Captain over them.

And Jephthah ſent Meſſengers unto the King of the Children of Ammon, ſaying, What haſt thou to do with me, that thou art come againſt me to fight in my Land?

And the King anſwered the Meſſengers of Jephthah, Becauſe Iſrael took away my Land when they came up out of Egypt: Now therefore reſtore thoſe Lands peaceably.

And Jephthah ſent Meſſengers again and ſaid, Iſrael took not away the Land of the Children of Ammon:

† c. 8. v. 28. ‖ c. 10. v. 6. &c. § i. e. *gave them up.*

But

But the Lord GOD hath diſpoſſeſt the Amorites from before his People Iſrael; and ſhouldſt thou poſſeſs it?

Wherefore I have not ſinned againſt thee, but thou doſt me wrong to war againſt me: the Lord, the Judge, be Judge this Day between Iſrael and the Children of Ammon.

Howbeit the King of the Children of Ammon hearken'd not unto the Words of Jephthah.

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he paſſed over unto the Children of Ammon.

And Jephthah vowed a Vow unto the Lord and ſaid, If thou wilt deliver the Children of Ammon into my Hands;

Then whatſoever cometh forth of my Houſe to meet me, ſhall ſurely be the Lord's, or I will offer it up for a Burnt-offering. ¶

So Jephthah paſſed over unto the Children of Ammon, and the Lord delivered them into his Hands.

And he ſmote them with a great Slaughter. Thus were the Children of Ammon ſubdued before the Children of Iſrael.

And Jephthah came unto his Houſe, and behold his Daughter came forth to meet him; and ſhe was his only Child.

And when he ſaw her, he rent his Cloaths and ſaid, Alas my Daughter, thou haſt brought me very low; for I have opened my Mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back.

And ſhe ſaid unto him, My Father, If thou haſt opened thy Mouth unto the Lord, do according to that which hath proceeded out of thy Mouth.

And ſhe ſaid unto her Father, Let this Thing be done for me; let me alone two Months, that I may go up and down upon the Mountains, and bewail my Virginity.*

And at the End of two Months ſhe returned unto her Father, † who did with her according to his Vow: and ſhe knew no Man.

¶ i. e. *if it be a Thing capable of being ſo offer'd.*
* *my Perpetual Virginity, to which thou haſt devoted me.*
† viz. *Shut her up to be a perpetual Virgin.*

LESSON IX.

Of Samson's *Birth and Marriage.*

‡ And the Children of Israel did Evil again in the Sight of the Lord, and he delivered them into the Hand of the Philistines.

And there was a certain Man of Zorah, whose Name was Manoah: and his Wife was barren.

And ‖ the Angel of the Lord appeared unto her and said, Thou shalt conceive and bear a Son.

And the Child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the Womb; he shall begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines.

Then the Woman came and told her Husband, A Man of God came unto me, and his Countenance was very terrible. And he said unto me, Behold thou shalt conceive and bear a Son.

Then Manoah intreated the Lord and said, O my Lord, let the Man of God come again to us, and teach us what we shall do unto the Child.

And the Angel of God came again unto the Woman, in the Field. And she ran and said unto her Husband, Behold, the Man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other Day.

And Manoah came unto the Man and said, How shall we order the Child, and how shall we do unto him?

And the Angel said, Let not the Woman drink Wine or strong Drink, nor eat any unclean Thing.

And Manoah said unto the Angel, What is thy Name, that when thy Sayings come to pass we may do thee Honour?

And the Angel of the Lord said, Why askest thou my Name, seeing it is secret.

And Manoah took a Kid and offer'd it unto the Lord. And it came to pass when the Flame went up toward Heaven, that the Angel of the Lord ascended in the Flame of the Altar. And Manoah and his Wife fell on their Faces to the Ground.

‡ c. 13. v. 1, &c. ‖ c. 14. v. 1, &c.

And

And the Woman bare a Son, and called his Name Samſon, and the Child grew, and the Lord bleſſed him.

And Samſon went down to Timnath, and ſaw a Woman of the Daughters of the Philiſtines.

And Samſon told his Father and his Mother, and ſaid, Get her for me to Wife.

And he went down and his Father and his Mother to Timnath; and behold a young Lion roared againſt him.

And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him, as he would have rent a Kid, and he had nothing in his Hand.

And after a Time he returned to take his Wife, and he turned aſide to ſee the Carcaſe of the Lion, and behold, there was a Swarm of Bees, and Honey in the Carcaſe.

And Samſon made a Feaſt, and they brought thirty Companions to be with him.

And Samſon ſaid, I will put forth a Riddle: if ye can declare it, I will give you thirty Sheets and thirty Changes of Rayment:

But if ye cannot declare it, ye ſhall give me thirty Sheets and thirty Changes of Rayment. And they ſaid, Put forth thy Riddle.

And he ſaid, Out of the Eater came forth Meat, and out of the Strong came forth Sweetneſs. And they could not expound the Riddle.

And they ſaid unto Samſon's Wife, Entice thy Huſband, that he may declare the Riddle, leaſt we burn thee and thy Father's Houſe with Fire.

And on the ſeventh Day he told her, becauſe ſhe lay ſore upon him, and ſhe told it to her People.

And they ſaid unto him, What is ſweeter than Honey, and what is ſtronger than a Lion? And he ſaid unto them, If ye had not plow'd with my Heifer, ye had not found out my Riddle.

And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Aſhkelon, and ſlew thirty Men, and took their Spoil, and gave Change of Garments unto them which expounded the Riddle.

And he went to his Father's Houſe. But Samſon's Wife was given to his Companion.

LESSON X.

Of Samſon's *Valour and Death.*

[c] But within a while, Samſon viſited his Wife. But her Father would not ſuffer him to go in.

And Samſon ſaid, Now ſhall I be more blameleſs than the Philiſtines, tho' I do them a Diſpleaſure.

And Samſon went and caught three hundred Foxes, and took Firebrands, and turned Tail to Tail, and put a Firebrand in the Midſt between two Tails.

And when he had ſet the Brands on Fire, he let them go into the ſtanding Corn of the Philiſtines; and burnt up both the Shocks and the ſtanding Corn.

Then the Philiſtines ſaid, Who hath done this? And they anſwered, Samſon, the Son-in-Law of the Timnite, becauſe he had given his Wife to his Companion. And the Philiſtines came up and burnt her and her Father with Fire.

And Samſon ſaid, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that, I will ceaſe. And he ſmote them with a great Slaughter, and went and dwelt in the Top of the Rock Etam.

Then the Philiſtines went up and pitched in Judah; and the Men of Judah ſaid, Why are ye come up againſt us? And they anſwered, To bind Samſon are we come up.

Then three thouſand Men of Judah went to Samſon and ſaid, We are come to bind thee, that we may deliver thee to the Philiſtines. And they bound him with two new Cords, and brought him up from the Rock.

And when he came unto Lehi, the Philiſtines ſhouted againſt him. And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him; and the Cords that were upon his Arms became as Flax that was burnt with Fire, and his Bands looſed from his Hands.

And he found a new Jaw-Bone of an Aſs, and took it, and ſlew a thouſand Men.

And he caſt away the Jaw-Bone out of his Hand, and called that Place [d] Ramath-Lehi.

[c] c. xv. 1, &c. [d] *that is, the caſting away of the Jaw-bone.*

And

And he [e] judged Iſrael in the Days of the Philiſtines, twenty Years.

[f] And afterward, he loved a Woman in the Valley of Sorek, whoſe Name was Delilah.

And the Lords of the Philiſtines came up unto her and ſaid, Entice him and ſee wherein his great Strength lieth: And we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred Pieces of Silver.

And Delilah ſaid to Samſon, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great Strength lieth.

And he ſaid, If they bind me faſt with new Ropes, then ſhall I be weak and as another Man.

Delilah therefore took new Ropes and bound him, and ſaid, The Philiſtines be upon thee, Samſon (And there were Liers in wait abiding in the Chamber.) And he brake them from off his Arms like a Thread.

And it came to paſs, while ſhe preſſed him daily with her Words, that he told her all his Heart and ſaid, I have been a Nazarite unto GOD from my Mother's Womb; if I be ſhaven, then will my Strength go from me.

And Delilah made him ſleep upon her Knees, and cauſed a Man to ſhave off the ſeven Locks of his Head.

And ſhe ſaid, The Philiſtines are upon thee, Samſon. And he awoke and ſaid, I will go out as at other Times and ſhake myſelf. For he knew not that the Lord was departed from him.

But the Philiſtines took him and put out his Eyes, and bound him with Fetters of Braſs, and he did grind in the Priſon-Houſe.

Then the Lords of the Philiſtines gathered them together, to offer Sacrifice to Dagon, their God, and to rejoice. For they ſaid, Our God hath deliver'd Samſon our Enemy into our Hand.

And when their Hearts were merry they ſaid, Call for Samſon, that he may make us Sport.

And Samſon ſaid unto the Lad that held him by the Hand, ſuffer me that I may feel the Pillars whereupon the Houſe ſtandeth, that I may lean upon them.

[e] *that is, govern'd.* [f] c. xvi. v. 4, &c.

GOD

And Samſon called unto the Lord and ſaid, O Lord GOD, ſtrengthen me, I pray thee, this once, that I may be at once avenged of the Philiſtines for my two Eyes.

And Samſon took hold of the two middle Pillars, of the one with his Right-Hand, and of the other with his Left.

And Samſon ſaid, Let me die with the Philiſtines. And he bow'd himſelf with all his Might. (Now the Houſe was full of Men and Women, and all the Lords of the Philiſtines were there.) And the Houſe fell upon the Lords, and upon all the People that were therein.

So the dead, which he ſlew at his Death, were more than they which he ſlew in his Life.

Then his Brethren came and took him and brought him up, and buried him in the burying Place of Manoah his Father.

LESSON XI.

Of the Birth and Childhood of Samuel.

[ε] There was a certain Man of Mount Ephraim, and his Name was Elkanah. And he had two Wives, the Name of the one was Hannah, and the Name of the other Peninnah. And Peninnah had Children, but Hannah had none.

And he went up yearly to worſhip unto the Lord in Shiloh. And Hannah roſe up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and pray'd unto the Lord and wept ſore.

And ſhe vowed a Vow and ſaid, O Lord, if thou wilt indeed look upon mine Affliction, and give unto thine Handmaid a Manchild, then I will give him unto the Lord all the Days of his Life.

Now Eli the Prieſt ſat by a Poſt of the Temple. And as ſhe continued praying, Eli marked her Mouth.

Now Hannah ſpake in her Heart, only her Lips moved; but her Voice was not heard: Therefore Eli thought, ſhe had been drunken.

And Eli ſaid unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy Wine from thee.

[ε] 1 *Sam.* c. i. v. 1, *&c.*

am

And Hannah anſwered and ſaid, No, my Lord: I am a Woman of a ſorrowful Spirit. I have drank neither Wine nor ſtrong Drink, but have poured out my Soul before the Lord.

Then Eli anſwered and ſaid, Go in Peace, and the God of Iſrael grant thee thy Petition.

So the Woman went her Way and did eat, and her Countenance was no longer ſad.

And Hannah conceived and bare a Son, and called his Name [h] Samuel.

And when ſhe had weaned him, ſhe brought him unto the Houſe of the Lord in Shiloh.

And they brought the Child to Eli, and ſhe ſaid, O my Lord, I am the Woman that ſtood by thee here, praying unto the Lord.

For this Child I prayed, and the Lord hath given me my Petition which I aſked of him:

Therefore alſo I have lent him to the Lord: As long as he liveth he ſhall be lent unto the Lord.

[i] And Hannah prayed and ſaid, My Heart rejoiceth in the Lord: I rejoice in thy Salvation.

There is none holy as the Lord; neither is there any [k] Rock like our God.

The Lord is a God of Knowledge, and by him Actions are weighed.

The Lord killeth and maketh alive; he bringeth down to the Grave and bringeth up.

The Lord maketh poor and maketh rich; he bringeth low and lifteth up.

He raiſeth up the Poor out of the Duſt, to ſet them among Princes: For the Pillars of the Earth are the Lord's, and he hath ſet the World upon them.

He will keep the Feet of his Saints, and the Wicked ſhall be ſilent in Darkneſs; for by Strength ſhall no Man prevail.

And the Child did miniſter unto the Lord, before Eli the Prieſt.

And Eli bleſſed Elkanah and his Wife and ſaid, The Lord give thee Seed of this Woman, for the Loan which is lent to the Lord.

[h] *that is, aſked of the Lord.* [i] c. ii. v. 1, &c. [k] *that is, Strength.*

And

And the Child Samuel grew, and was in Favour both with the Lord and with Men.

LESSON XII.

GOD *reveals Himſelf to* Samuel. *The Ark taken by the Philiſtines.*

[1] And the Word of the Lord was precious in thoſe Days, there was no open Viſion.

And it came to paſs, when Eli was laid down in his Place, and Samuel was laid down to Sleep;

That the Lord called Samuel: And he anſwered, Here am I.

And he ran unto Eli and ſaid, Here I am, for thou calledſt me. And he ſaid, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

And the Lord called Samuel again. And he aroſe and went to Eli, and ſaid, Here I am, for thou didſt call me. And Eli perceived, that the Lord had called the Child.

Therefore Eli ſaid, Go, lie down; and if he call thee, thou ſhalt ſay, ſpeak, Lord; for thy Servant heareth.

So Samuel went and laid down. And the Lord came and called, Samuel. Then Samuel anſwered, Speak, Lord, for thy Servant heareth.

And the Lord ſaid, Behold, I will do a Thing, at which the Ears of every one that heareth it ſhall tingle.

In that Day I will perform againſt Eli, all the Things I have ſpoken concerning his Houſe; becauſe his Sons made themſelves vile, and he reſtrained them not.

And Samuel feared to ſhew Eli the Viſion. Then Eli ſaid, What hath the Lord ſaid unto thee? I pray thee, hide it not from me. And Samuel told him every Whit.

And he ſaid, It is the Lord: Let Him do what ſeemeth Him good.

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and let none of his Words fall to the Ground.

[1] c. iii. v. 1, &c.

And

And all Iſrael knew, that Samuel was eſtabliſh'd to be a Prophet of the Lord.

For the Lord revealed Himſelf to Samuel in Shiloh, by [m] the Word of the Lord.

[n] Now Iſrael went out againſt the Philiſtines to Battle. And when they had joined Battle, Iſrael was ſmitten before the Philiſtines.

And when the People were come into the Camp, the Elders of Iſrael ſaid, Let us fetch the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, that it may ſave us out of the Hand of our Enemies.

And the People ſent to Shiloh to bring the Ark of the Lord. And when the Ark came into the Camp, all Iſrael ſhouted with a great Shout.

And the Philiſtines were afraid; for they ſaid, God is come into the Camp: Who ſhall deliver us out of the Hand of theſe mighty Gods?

Be ſtrong, and quit yourſelves like Men, O ye Philiſtines, that ye be not Servants unto the Hebrews.

And the Philiſtines fought, and Iſrael was ſmitten, and there was a very great Slaughter.

And the Ark of God was taken; and the two Sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas were ſlain.

And there ran a Man out of the Army and came to Shiloh, and came in haſtily to Eli.

Now Eli was ninety and eight Years old, and his Eyes were dim, that he could not ſee.

And the Man ſaid, I am he that came out of the Army. And Eli ſaid, What is there done, my Son?

And the Meſſenger anſwered, Iſrael is fled before the Philiſtines, and there hath been a great Slaughter among the People: And thy two Sons, Hophni and Phinehas are dead, and the Ark of God is taken.

And it came to paſs, when he made mention of the Ark of God, that he fell from off the Seat backward, by the Side of the Gate, and his Neck brake and he died. For he was an old Man and heavy. And he had judged Iſrael Forty Years.

[m] *that is, Chriſt.* [n] c. 4. v. 1. *&c.*

LESSON

LESSON XIII.

The Ark reſtored. Samuel *judges Iſrael.*

[o] And the Philiſtines took the Ark of God and brought it to Aſhdod. But the Hand of the Lord was heavy upon them of Aſhdod.

And the Men of Aſhdod ſaid, The Ark of God ſhall not abide with us; for his Hand is ſore upon us.

And they carried the Ark to Gath. And the Hand of the Lord was againſt Gath, with a very great Deſtruction.

[p] And the Philiſtines called for the Prieſts, ſaying, What ſhall we do to the Ark of the Lord?

They anſwered, Make a new Cart, and take two Milch Kine, and lay the Ark of the Lord upon the Cart.

And ſee, if it goeth up by the Way of his own Coaſt to Bethſhemeſh, then God hath done us this great Evil.

And they took two Milch Kine, and tied them to the Cart, and ſhut up their Calves at home.

And they laid the Ark upon the Cart. And the Kine took the ſtreight Way to Bethſhemeſh, and turned not aſide to the Right Hand or to the Left.

And they of Bethſhemeſh were reaping their Wheat-harveſt. And they lifted up their Eyes and ſaw the Ark and rejoiced.

And the Levites took down the Ark of the Lord; and they offer'd Burnt-offerings and Sacrifices unto the Lord.

And they ſent Meſſengers unto the Inhabitants of Kirjath-jearim, ſaying, Come ye down and fetch the Ark of the Lord.

[q] And they came and fetcht it up. And the Ark abode at Kirjath-jearim twenty Years.

And Samuel ſpake unto all Iſrael, ſaying, If ye do return unto the Lord, with all your Hearts, then prepare your Hearts unto the Lord, and ſerve him only,

[o] c. 5. 1. &c. [p] c. 6. v. 2, &c. [q] c. 7. v. 1, &c.

and

and he will deliver you: And gather all Iſrael to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord.

And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and faſted on that Day, and ſaid, We have ſinned againſt the Lord.

And when the Philiſtines heard of it, they went up againſt Iſrael; and the Children of Iſrael were afraid.

And Samuel cried unto the Lord for Iſrael; and the Lord heard him.

And as Samuel was offering up the Burnt-offering, the Philiſtines drew near to Battle againſt Iſrael: but the Lord thundered with a great Thunder upon the Philiſtines, and they were ſmitten before Iſrael.

So the Philiſtines were ſubdued, and they came no more into the Coaſt of Iſrael. And the Hand of the Lord was againſt the Philiſtines all the Days of Samuel.

And Samuel went from Year to Year in Circuit to Bethel and Gilgal and Mizpeh, and judged Iſrael in all thoſe Places.

And his return was to Ramah, for there was his Houſe; and there he built an Altar to the Lord.

LESSON XIV.

Saul *made King, delivers Iſrael.*

[r] And it came to paſs, when Samuel was old, that he made his Sons Judges over Iſrael.

And his Sons walked not in his Ways, but took Bribes, and perverted Judgement.

Then all the Elders of Iſrael gather'd themſelves together, and came to Samuel, and ſaid unto him,

Behold, thou art old, and thy Sons walk not in thy Ways; make us a King to judge us like all the Nations.

[s] And Samuel called the People together unto the Lord to Mizpeh:

And ſaid unto the Children of Iſrael, Thus ſaith the Lord GOD of Iſrael, Ye have this Day rejected your GOD, who Himſelf ſaved you out of all your Tribulations: And ye have ſaid unto him, Nay, but ſet a King

[r] c. 8. v. 1, &c. [s] c. 10. v. 17, &c.

over us. Now therefore preſent yourſelves before the Lord by your Tribes and by your Thouſands.

And when Samuel had cauſed all the Tribes of Iſrael to come near, the Tribe of Benjamin was [t] taken.

And when they came near by their Families, the Family of Matri was taken; and Saul the Son of Kiſh was [t] taken.

And when he ſtood among the People, he was higher than any of the People from his Shoulders and upward.

And all the People ſhouted, and ſaid, GOD ſave the King.

And Saul went home to Gibeah, and there went with him a Band of Men, whoſe Hearts GOD had touched.

[u] Then Nahaſh the Ammonite came up and incamped againſt Jabeſh-gilead. And all the Men of Jabeſh ſaid unto Nahaſh, Make a Covenant with us, and we will ſerve thee.

And he anſwered, On this Condition will I make a Covenant with you, that I may thruſt out all your Right Eyes, and lay it for a Reproach upon all Iſrael.

And the Elders of Jabeſh ſaid, Give us ſeven Days Reſpite; and then if there be no Man to ſave us, we will come out unto thee.

Then came Meſſengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the Tidings in the Ears of the People.

And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul, when he heard thoſe Tidings: And the Fear of the Lord fell on the People, and they came out with one Conſent.

And they ſaid unto the Meſſengers that came, Thus ſhall ye ſay to the Men of Jabeſh-gilead, To-morrow ye ſhall have help.

And on the Morrow Saul put the People in three Companies, and they came into the Midſt of the Hoſt in the Morning-watch, and ſlew the Ammonites until the Heat of the Day; and they were ſcattered ſo that two of them were not left together.

Then ſaid Samuel to the People, Come and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the Kingdom there.

[t] *by lot.* [u] c. 11. v. 1, &c.

And

And the People went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul King before the Lord in Gilgal.

LESSON XV.

The Overthrow of the Philiſtines.

[w] And [x] Jonathan ſmote the Garriſon of the Philiſtines that was in Geba; and the Philiſtines heard of it. And Saul blew the Trumpet throughout all the Land, and the People were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

And the Philiſtines gathered themſelves, as the Sand which is on the Sea-ſhore for Multitude.

When the Men of Iſrael ſaw that they were in a Strait, (for the People were diſtreſſed) they did hide themſelves in Caves and in Thickets, and in Rocks and in high Places and in Pits.

As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the [y] People followed him trembling.

And the Garriſon of the Philiſtines went out, to the Paſſage of Michmaſh.

[z] Now it came to paſs upon a Day, that Jonathan ſaid unto the young Man that bare his Armour; Come and let us go over to the Philiſtine's Garriſon that is on the other Side.

And Saul tarried in the uttermoſt Part of Gibeah, and the People that were with him were about ſix hundred Men.

And between the Paſſages, by which Jonathan ſought to go over to the Philiſtine's Garriſon, there was a ſharp Rock on the one Side, and a ſharp Rock on the other Side.

And Jonathan ſaid to the young Man, Come, and let us go over unto the Garriſon of theſe uncircumciſed. It may be that the Lord will work for us. For there is no Reſtraint to the Lord, to ſave by many or by few.

And his Armour-bearer ſaid unto him, Do all that is in thy Heart: behold I am with thee, according to thy Heart.

[w] c. 13. v. 3, *&c.*
[x] *Saul's eldeſt Son.*
[y] *all that were left with him.*
[z] c. 14. v. 1, *&c.*

Then ſaid Jonathan, Behold, we will paſs over unto theſe Men, and we will diſcover ourſelves unto them.

If they ſay thus unto us, Tarry until we come; then we will ſtand ſtill in our Place.

But if they ſay thus, Come up unto us, then we will go up; for the Lord hath deliver'd them into our Hand: and this ſhall be a Sign unto us.

And they diſcover'd themſelves unto the Garriſon of the Philiſtines. And the Philiſtines ſaid, Behold the Hebrews come out of the Holes.

And the Men of the Garriſon ſaid to Jonathan and his Armour-bearer, Come up to us, and we will ſhew you a Thing. And Jonathan ſaid, Come up after me; for the Lord hath deliver'd them into the Hand of Iſrael.

And Jonathan climbed up upon his Hands and his Feet, and his Armour-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his Armour-bearer flew after him.

And the firſt Slaughter, which Jonathan and his Armour-bearer made, was about twenty Men.

And there was trembling in the Hoſt, and among all the People: the Garriſon and the Spoilers they alſo trembled; and the Earth quaked: ſo it was a very great trembling.

And the Watchmen of Saul looked, and behold the Multitude melted away; and they went on, beating down one another.

And Saul and all the People that were with him aſſembled themſelves, and they came to the Battle: and behold every Man's Sword was againſt his Fellow; and there was a very great Diſcomfiture.

Moreover all the Men of Iſrael which had hid themſelves in Mount Ephraim, when they heard that the Philiſtines fled, even they followed hard after them in the Battle. So the Lord ſaved Iſrael that Day.

LESSON XVI.

The Deſtruction of the Amalekites.

[a] And Samuel ſaid unto Saul, The Lord ſent me to anoint thee to be King over Iſrael. Now therefore hearken thou unto the Voice of the Lord.

Thus ſaith the Lord, I remember what Amalek did to Iſrael, how he laid wait for him in the Way when he came up from Egypt.

Now go and ſmite Amalek, and utterly deſtroy all that they have and ſpare them not.

And Saul gather'd the People together, and number'd them in Telaim.

And Saul ſaid unto the Kenites, Go, depart: get you down from among the Amalekites, leaſt I deſtroy you with them. For ye ſhewed Kindneſs unto the Children of Iſrael, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

And Saul ſmote the Amalekites from Havilah, until thou comeſt to Shur, that is over againſt Egypt.

And he took Agag the King of the Amalekites alive, and utterly deſtroyed all the People with the Edge of the Sword.

But Saul and the People ſpared Agag, and the beſt of the Sheep and of the Oxen, and the Lambs, and all that was good; but every Thing that was vile and refuſe, that they deſtroyed utterly.

Then came the Word of the Lord unto Samuel, ſaying,

It repenteth me that I have ſet up Saul to be King: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not perform'd my Commandments. And it grieved Samuel and he cried unto the Lord all Night.

And Samuel roſe early in the Morning, and came to Saul; and Saul ſaid unto him, Bleſſed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the Commandment of the Lord.

And Samuel ſaid, What meaneth then this bleating of the Sheep in mine Ears, and the lowing of the Oxen which I hear?

[a] 1. *Sam.* c. 15. v. 1, *&c.*

And Saul ſaid, The People ſpared the beſt of the Sheep and of the Oxen, to ſacrifice unto the Lord thy GOD; and the reſt we have utterly deſtroyed.

And Samuel ſaid, The Lord ſent thee on a Journey and ſaid, Go, and utterly deſtroy the [b] Sinners the Amalekites: and fight againſt them until they be conſumed. Wherefore then didſt thou not obey the Voice of the Lord?

And Saul ſaid unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the Voice of the Lord, and have utterly deſtroyed the Amalekites.

But the People took of the Spoil, the chief of the Things which ſhould have been deſtroyed, to ſacrifice unto the Lord thy GOD.

And Samuel ſaid, Hath the Lord as great Delight in Burnt-offerings and Sacrifices, as in obeying the Voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than Sacrifice, and to hearken, than the Fat of Rams.

For Rebellion is as the Sin of Witchcraft, and Stubbornneſs is as Iniquity and Idolatry: Becauſe thou haſt rejected the Word of the Lord, He hath alſo rejected thee.

And Saul ſaid unto Samuel, I have ſinned; for I have tranſgreſſed the Commandment of the Lord; becauſe I feared the People, and obeyed their Voice.

And Samuel ſaid, [c] The Strength of Iſrael will not lie nor repent; for He is not a Man that he ſhould repent.

Then ſaid Samuel, Bring hither Agag the King of the Amalekites: And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag ſaid, Surely the Bitterneſs of Death is paſt.

And Samuel ſaid, As thy Sword hath made Women childleſs, ſo ſhall thy Mother be childleſs among Women. And Samuel hewed Agag in Pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.

LESSON XVII.

Of David *and* Goliath.

[d] Now the Philiſtines gathered together their Armies to Battle, and the Men of Iſrael were gathered to-

[b] *it was for their own Sins, as well as their Father's.*

[c] i. e. GOD. [d] c. 17. v. 1, &c.

gether. And the Philiſtines ſtood on a Mountain on the one Side, and Iſrael ſtood on a Mountain on the other Side.

And there went a Champion out of the Camp of the Philiſtines, named Goliath of Gath, whoſe height was ſix Cubits and a Span.

And the Staff of his Spear was like a Weaver's Beam, and his Spear's Head weighed ſix hundred Shekels of Iron.

And he ſtood and cried unto the Armies of Iſrael, Why are ye come out to ſet your Battle in Array? Am I not a Philiſtine, and you Servants of Saul? Chuſe you a Man, and let him come down to me.

If he kill me, then will we be your Servants; but if I kill him, then ſhall ye ſerve us. I defy the Armies of Iſrael this Day. Give me a Man that we may fight together.

When Saul and all Iſrael heard thoſe Words, they were diſmay'd and greatly afraid.

Now David was the Son of Jeſſe. And the three eldeſt Sons of Jeſſe followed Saul to the Battle.

And Jeſſe ſaid unto David, Run to the Camp, and look how thy Brethren fare.

And he roſe up early in the Morning, and he came to the Trench, as the Hoſt was going forth to the Battle.

And behold there came up the Champion out of the Armies of the Philiſtines, and ſpake the ſame Words.

And David ſaid, What ſhall be done unto the Man that killeth this Philiſtine, and taketh away the Reproach from Iſrael? For who is this uncircumciſed Philiſtine, that he ſhould defy the Armies of the Living God?

And the People anſwered him, ſaying, The Man who killeth him, the King will inrich him with great Riches, and will give him his Daughter.

And the Words which David ſpake were rehearſed before Saul: and he ſent for him.

And David ſaid to Saul, Let no Man's Heart fail; thy Servant will go and fight with this Philiſtine.

And Saul ſaid, Thou art not able; for thou art but a Youth, and he a Man of War from his Youth.

And David ſaid unto Saul, Thy Servant kept his Father's Sheep, and there came † a Lion and a Bear, and took a Lamb out of the Flock.

And I went out after him and ſmote him, and delivered it out of his Mouth. And when he aroſe againſt me I caught him by his Beard and ſmote him and ſlew him.

Thy Servant ſlew both the Lion and the Bear. And the Lord that delivered me out of the Paw of the Lion, and out of the Paw of the Bear, he ſhall deliver me out of the Hand of this Philiſtine. And Saul ſaid unto David, Go; and the Lord be with thee.

And Saul armed David with his Armour, and he put an Helmet of Braſs upon his Head.

And David ſaid unto Saul, I cannot go with theſe; for I have not proved them. And David put them off.

And he took his Staff in his Hand, and choſe him five ſmooth Stones out of the Brook; and his Sling was in his Hand, and he drew near to the Philiſtine.

And when the Philiſtine looked about and ſaw David, he diſdained him; for he was but a Youth and of a fair Countenance.

And the Philiſtine ſaid, Am I a Dog, that thou comeſt to me with Staves? And he curſed David by his Gods.

And the Philiſtine ſaid, Come to me, and I will give thy Fleſh unto the Fowls of the Air, and to the Beaſts of the Field.

Then ſaid David to the Philiſtine, Thou comeſt to me with a Sword and with a Spear and with a Shield; but I come to thee in the Name of the Lord of Hoſts, the God of Iſrael, whom thou haſt defied.

This Day will the Lord deliver thee into my Hand, and I will ſmite thee and take thine Head from thee; and I will give the Carcaſes of the Philiſtines unto the Fowls of the Air and to the wild Beaſts of the Earth; that all the Earth may know, that there is a God in Iſrael.

† *at ſeveral Times.*

And all this Aſſembly ſhall know, that the Lord ſaveth not with Sword and Spear; for the Battle is the Lord's.

And it came to paſs when the Philiſtine drew nigh to meet David, that David ran to meet the Philiſtine.

And David took a Stone and ſlung it, and ſmote the Philiſtine in his Forehead, that the Stone ſunk into his Forehead, and he fell upon his Face to the Earth.

And David ran, and ſtood upon the Philiſtine, and took [e] his Sword, and drew it out of the Sheath, and cut off his Head therewith.

And when the Philiſtines ſaw their Champion was dead, they fled; and the Men of Iſrael aroſe and ſhouted, and purſued the Philiſtines, until thou come to the Valley, even unto the Gates of Ekron.

LESSON XVIII.

Saul *ſeeks to kill* David.

[f] And the Soul of Jonathan was knit with the Soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own Soul.

And David went out whitherſoever Saul ſent him, and behaved himſelf wiſely.

And when David returned from the Slaughter of the Philiſtine, the Women came out, ſinging with Inſtruments of Muſick.

And they anſwered one another as they played, and ſaid, Saul hath ſlain his Thouſands and David his ten Thouſands.

And Saul was very wroth, and the Saying diſpleaſed him; and he ſaid, What can he have more but the Kingdom?

And Michal, Saul's Daughter, loved David; and they told Saul, and the Thing pleaſed him.

And Saul ſaid, I will give him her, that ſhe may be a Snare to him. And Saul ſaid unto his Servants, Thus ſhall ye ſay to David, The King deſireth only an hundred Foreſkins of the Philiſtines.

But Saul thought to make David fall by the Hand of the Philiſtines.

[e] *Goliath's Sword.* [f] c. 18. v. 1, &c.

And

And it pleaſed David well; and he went, he and his Men, and ſlew of the Philiſtines two hundred Men. And David brought their Foreſkins to the King. And Saul gave him Michal to Wife.

[g] And Saul ſpake to Jonathan his Son, and to all his Servants, that they ſhould kill David.

And Jonathan ſaid unto Saul, Let not the King ſin, againſt his Servant, againſt David; becauſe he hath not ſinned againſt thee; his Works have been to thee-ward very good.

Wherefore then wilt thou ſin againſt innocent Blood, to ſlay David without a Cauſe?

And Saul hearkened unto the Voice of Jonathan; and Saul ſware, As the Lord liveth, he ſhall not be ſlain.

And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his Preſence as in Times paſt.

And there was War again. And David went out, and fought with the Philiſtines, and ſlew them with a very great Slaughter.

And Saul ſat in his Houſe with his Javelin in his Hand, and he ſought to ſmite David even to the Wall: And he ſmote the Javelin into the Wall. And David fled and eſcaped that Night.

Saul alſo ſent Meſſengers unto David's Houſe, to watch him and to ſlay him in the Morning. But Michal let David down through a Window; and he fled and eſcaped and came to Samuel in Ramah.

And Saul ſent Meſſengers to Ramah to take David. And when they ſaw the Company of Prophets propheſying, and Samuel ſtanding as appointed over them; the Spirit of God was upon the Meſſengers of Saul and they alſo propheſied.

And when it was told Saul, he ſent other Meſſengers; and they propheſied likewiſe. And Saul ſent Meſſengers again the third Time; and they propheſied alſo.

Then went he alſo to Ramah: And the Spirit of the Lord was upon him alſo. And he went on and propheſied, until he came to [g] Naioth in Ramah.

[g] c. 19. v. 1, &c. [g] *The Houſe of the Prophets.*

And

And he ſtript off his Clothes alſo, and propheſied before Samuel in like Manner, and he lay down ‡ naked all that Day and all that Night. Wherefore they ſay, Is Saul alſo among the Prophets?

LESSON XIX.

David's *Eſcape from* Saul.

[h] And David departed and eſcaped to the Cave of Adullam. And when his Brethren and all his Father's Houſe heard it they went down thither to him.

And there were with him about four hundred Men.

[i] Then they told David, the Philiſtines fight againſt Keilah. [k]

Then David inquired of the Lord, ſaying, Shall I go ſmite theſe Philiſtines?

And the Lord ſaid, Ariſe, go down to Keilah, for I will deliver the Philiſtines into thine Hand.

So David and his Men went down to Keilah, and ſmote the Philiſtines with a great Slaughter, and ſaved the Inhabitants of Keilah.

And it was told Saul, that David was come to Keilah; and Saul called all the People, to go down and beſiege David.

Then ſaid David, O Lord GOD of Iſrael, will the Men of Keilah deliver me into the Hand of Saul?

And the Lord ſaid, They will deliver thee. Then David and his Men aroſe and departed out of Keilah; And it was told Saul, that David was eſcaped from Keilah, and he forbare to go forth.

And David abode in the Wilderneſs, and Saul ſought him every Day; but GOD delivered him not into his Hand.

And David ſaw that Saul was come out to ſeek his Life; and David was in the Wilderneſs of Ziph in a Wood.

And Jonathan aroſe and went to David into the Wood, and ſtrengthen'd his Hand in GOD.

‡ *without his upper Garment.*
[i] c. 23. 1, &c.
[h] c. 22. v. 1, &c.
[k] *A City of Judah.*

And

And he ſaid unto him, Fear not; for Saul my Father ſhall not find thee, and thou ſhalt be King over Iſrael.

Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah ſaying, Doth not David hide himſelf with us, in the Wood!

Now therefore, O King, come down, according to all the Deſire of thy Soul, and our Part ſhall be, to deliver him into the King's Hand.

And Saul ſaid, Bleſſed be ye of the Lord; for ye have Compaſſion on me.

Go, I pray you, and ſee his Place where his Haunt is; for it is told me he dealeth very ſubtly.

See therefore and take Knowledge of all the Lurking-places where he hideth himſelf: and it ſhall come to paſs, if he be in the Land, that I will ſearch him out throughout all the thouſands of Judah.

And they aroſe and went to Ziph before Saul; but David and his Men were in the Wilderneſs of Maon.

And Saul went on this Side of the Mountain, and David and his Men on that Side of the Mountain: and Saul and his Men compaſſed David and his Men round about to take them.

But there came a Meſſenger unto Saul, ſaying, Haſte thee and come; for the Philiſtines have invaded the Land.

Wherefore Saul returned from purſuing after David, and went againſt the Philiſtines.

And David went up from thence, and dwelt in ſtrong Holds at [l] Engedi.

LESSON XX.

David *by ſparing* Saul, *ſheweth his Innocency.*

[m] And when Saul was returned from following the Philiſtines, it was told him, David is in the Wilderneſs of Engedi.

Then Saul took three thouſand choſen Men, and went to ſeek David.

And he came where was a Cave, and Saul went in to cover his Feet, and David and his Men remained in the Sides of the Cave.

[l] *a City of Judah.* [m] c. 24. v. 1, &c.

And

And the Men of David ſaid, Behold the Day of which the Lord ſaid unto thee, I will deliver thine Enemy into thine Hand. Then David aroſe and cut off the Skirt of Saul's Robe privily.

And it came to paſs afterward, that David's Heart ſmote him, becauſe he had cut off Saul's Skirt.

And he ſaid, the Lord forbid, that I ſhould do this Thing unto the Lord's Anointed, to ſtretch forth mine Hand againſt him.

So David ſtay'd his Servants with theſe Words, and ſuffer'd them not to riſe againſt Saul. But Saul roſe up out of the Cave, and went on his Way.

David alſo aroſe and went out of the Cave, and cried after Saul, ſaying, My Lord the King! And when Saul looked behind him, David ſtooped with his Face to the Earth.

And David ſaid to Saul, Wherefore heareſt thou Men's Words, ſaying, Behold, David ſeeketh thy Hurt?

Behold this Day thine Eyes have ſeen, that the Lord had deliver'd thee into my Hand. And ſome bad me kill thee, but mine Eye ſpared thee, and I ſaid, I will not put forth my Hand againſt my Lord, the Lord's Anointed.

Moreover, my Father, ſee, yea ſee the Skirt of thy Robe in my Hand. In that I cut off the Skirt of thy Robe and killed thee not, know thou and ſee, that there is neither Evil nor Tranſgreſſion in mine Hand. I have not ſinned againſt thee; yet thou hunteſt my Soul to take it.

The Lord judge between me and thee; but mine Hand ſhall not be upon thee.

After whom is the King of Iſrael come out? After whom doſt thou purſue? After a dead Dog? After a Flea?

The Lord therefore be Judge, and ſee and plead my Cauſe, and deliver me out of thy Hand.

And it came to paſs, when David had made an end of ſpeaking theſe Words unto Saul, that Saul ſaid, Is this thy Voice, my Son David? And Saul lift up his Voice and wept.

And he ſaid to David, Thou art more righteous than I; for thou haſt rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee Evil.

And thou haſt ſhew'd me this Day, how thou haſt dealt well with me: foraſmuch as when the Lord had deliver'd me into thine Hand, thou killedſt me not.

For if a Man find his Enemy, will he let him go well away? Wherefore the Lord reward thee Good, for that thou haſt done unto me this Day.

And now behold, I know well that thou ſhalt ſurely be King, and that the Kingdom of Iſrael ſhall be eſtabliſht in thine Hand.

Swear now therefore unto me by the Lord, that thou wilt not cut off my Seed after me, and that thou wilt not deſtroy my Name out of my Father's Houſe.

And David ſware unto Saul; and Saul went home; but David and his Men gat them up unto the Hold.

[n] And Samuel died, and all the Iſraelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his Houſe at Ramah.

LESSON XXI.

David *ſpareth* Saul *again*.

[o] And the Ziphites came to Saul, ſaying, Doth not David hide himſelf in the Hill of Hachilah?

Then Saul aroſe and went down to ſeek David, having three thouſand choſen Men with him.

And Saul pitched in the Hill of Hachilah: but David abode in the Wilderneſs.

David therefore ſent out Spies, and underſtood that Saul was come in very deed.

And David aroſe and came to the Place where Saul had pitched. And David beheld the Place where Saul lay, and Abner the Captain of his Hoſt. And Saul lay in the Trench, and the People pitched round about him.

Then ſaid David, Who will go down with me to Saul to the Camp? And Abiſhai, Brother to Joab ſaid, I will go down.

[n] c. 25. v. 1. [o] c. 26. v. 1, &c.

So

So David and Abiſhai came to the People by Night and behold Saul lay ſleeping within the Trench, and his Spear ſtuck in the Ground at his Bolſter: But Abner and his People lay round about him.

Then ſaid Abiſhai to David, God hath delivered thine Enemy into thine Hand this Day. Now therefore let me ſmite him, I pray thee, with the Spear even to the Earth at once.

And David ſaid to Abiſhai, Deſtroy him not. Who can ſtretch out his Hand againſt the Lord's Anointed and be guiltleſs?

The Lord ſhall ſmite him; or his Day ſhall come to die; or he ſhall deſcend into Battle and periſh.

But take thou the Spear that is at his Bolſter, and the [p] Cruſe of Water, and let us go.

So David took the Spear and the Cruſe, and they gat them away, and no Man ſaw it, nor knew it: for they were all aſleep, becauſe a deep Sleep from the Lord was fallen upon them.

Then David went over to the other Side, and ſtood on the Top of a Hill afar off.

And David cried to the People and to Abner and ſaid, Art not thou a valiant Man? Wherefore then haſt thou not kept thy Lord the King? For there came in one to deſtroy the King thy Lord.

As the Lord liveth, ye are worthy to die, becauſe ye have not kept your Maſter, the Lord's Anointed. And now ſee, where the King's Spear is, and the Cruſe of Water that was at his Bolſter.

And Saul ſaid, Is this thy Voice my Son, David? And David ſaid, It is my Voice, my Lord, O King!

And he ſaid, Wherefore doth my Lord thus purſue his Servant? For what Evil is in my Hand?

Let not my Blood fall to the Earth before the Face of the Lord: for the King of Iſrael is come out to ſeek a Flea, as when one doth hunt a Partridge upon the Mountains.

Then ſaid Saul, I have ſinned, return my Son, David, for I will no more do thee Harm; becauſe my

[p] *the Pot.*

Soul was precious in thine Eyes this Day. Behold I have played the Fool and have erred exceedingly.

And David anſwered and ſaid, Behold the King's Spear. Let one of the young Men come over and fetch it.

And behold as thy Life was much ſet by this Day in mine Eyes, ſo let my Life be much ſet by in the Eyes of the Lord.

Then Saul ſaid to David, Bleſſed be thou, my Son David; thou ſhalt both do great Things, and alſo ſhalt ſtill prevail. So David went on his Way, and Saul returned to his Place.

LESSON XXII.

Of the Witch of Endor.

[q] Now Saul had put away thoſe that had familiar Spirits and the Wizards out of the Land.

And the Philiſtines gathered themſelves together and Saul gather'd all Iſrael and pitched in Gilboa.

And when Saul ſaw the Hoſt of the Philiſtines, he was afraid and his Heart greatly trembled.

And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord anſwered him not.

Then ſaid Saul unto his Servants, Seek me a Woman that hath a familiar Spirit. And they ſaid, There is a Woman that hath a familiar Spirit in Endor.

And Saul diſguiſed himſelf, and he went and two Men with him, and they came to the Woman by Night. And he ſaid, I pray thee bring him up whom I ſhall name unto thee.

And the Woman ſaid unto him, Thou knoweſt what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off thoſe that have familiar Spirits. Wherefore then layeſt thou a Snare for my Life to cauſe me to die.

And Saul ſware to her by the Lord, ſaying, There ſhall no Puniſhment happen to thee for this Thing.

Then ſaid the Woman whom ſhall I bring up unto thee? And he ſaid, bring me up Samuel.

[q] c. 28. v. 3, &c.

And

And when the Woman ſaw Samuel, [r] ſhe cried with a loud Voice. And ſhe ſaid, Why haſt thou deceived me? For thou art Saul.

And the King ſaid unto her, Be not afraid. What ſaweſt thou? And ſhe ſaid, I ſaw [s] Gods aſcending out of the Earth.

And he ſaid unto her, What is his Form? And ſhe ſaid, An old Man cometh up, and he is covered with a Mantle.

And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he ſtooped with his Face to the Ground.

And Samuel ſaid to Saul, Why haſt thou diſquieted me to bring me up? And Saul anſwered, I am ſore diſtreſſed: for the Philiſtines make War againſt me, and GOD is departed from me and anſwereth me no more, neither by Prophets, nor by Dreams. Therefore I have called thee, that thou mayſt make known unto me what I ſhall do.

Then ſaid Samuel, Wherefore then doſt thou aſk of me, ſeeing the Lord is departed from thee?

The Lord hath done as he ſpake by me; he hath rent the Kingdom out of thine Hand, and given it to thy Neighbour, even to David.

Becauſe thou obeyedſt not the Voice of the Lord, therefore hath he done this unto thee this Day.

Moreover the Lord will deliver Iſrael with thee into the Hand of the Philiſtines, and To-morrow ſhalt thou and thy Sons be with me.

Then Saul fell ſtraitway all along on the Earth, and was ſore afraid, becauſe of the Words of Samuel. And there was no Strength in him; for he had eaten no Bread all the Day, nor all the Night.

And the Woman came unto Saul, and ſaw that he was ſore troubled and ſaid, Hearken, I pray thee unto the Voice of thine Handmaid, and let me ſet a Morſel of Bread before thee, and eat that thou mayſt have Strength.

But he refuſed and ſaid, I will not eat: but his Servants together with the Woman compelled him. So

[r] *perceiving it was not the familiar Spirit that uſed to appear.*
[s] i. e. *a glorious, God-like Appearance.*

he aroſe from the Earth, and ſat upon the Bed. And they did eat, and roſe up and went away that Night.

LESSON XXIII.

The Death of Saul. David's *Lamentation.*

[t] Now the Philiſtines fought againſt Iſrael. And the Men of Iſrael fled from before the Philiſtines, and fell down ſlain in Mount Gilboa.

And the Philiſtines followed hard upon Saul and upon his Sons: and the Philiſtines ſlew Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchiſhua, Saul's Sons.

And the Battle went ſore againſt Saul, and the Archers hit him and he was ſore wounded.

Then ſaid he unto his Armour-bearer, Draw thy Sword and thruſt me through, leaſt theſe uncircumciſed come and abuſe me. But his Armour-bearer would not; therefore Saul took a Sword and fell upon it.

And when his Armour-bearer ſaw that Saul was dead, he likewiſe fell upon his Sword and died with him.

And on the Morrow, when the Philiſtines came to ſtrip the Slain, they found Saul and his three Sons fallen in Mount Gilboa.

And they cut off his Head and ſtript off his Armour; and they faſtened his Body to the Wall of Bethſham.

And when the Inhabitants of Jabeſh-gilead heard it, they aroſe and went all Night, and took the Body of Saul and the Bodies of his Sons from the Wall of Bethſhan, and came to Jabeſh and burnt them there.

And they buried his Bones under a Tree in Jabeſh, and faſted ſeven Days.

[u] And David lamented with this Lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his Son.

The Beauty of Iſrael is ſlain upon thy high Places: how are the Mighty fallen!

Tell it not in Gath! Publiſh it not in the Streets of Aſkelon! Leaſt the Daughters of the Philiſtines rejoice,

[t] c. 31. v. 1, &c. [u] 2 *Samuel*, c. 1. v. 17, &c.

leaſt

leaſt the Daughters of the Uncircumciſed triumph.

Ye Mountains of Gilboa, let there be no Dew, neither let there be Rain upon you, nor Fields of Offerings: for there the Shield of the Mighty is vilely caſt away, the Shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with Oil.

Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleaſant in their Lives, and in their Deaths they were not divided: they were ſwifter than Eagles, they were ſtronger than Lions.

How are the Mighty fallen in the Midſt of the Battle! O Jonathan, thou waſt ſlain in thine high Places.

I am diſtreſſed for thee, my Brother Jonathan, very pleaſant haſt thou been unto me: thy Love to me was wonderful, paſſing the Love of Women.

How are the mighty fallen, and the Weapons of War periſhed!

LESSON XXIV.

David *is made King over Judah and Iſrael.*

[w] And David enquired of the Lord, ſaying, Shall I go up into any of the Cities of Judah? And the Lord ſaid unto him, Go up. And David ſaid, Whither ſhall I go up? And he ſaid, unto Hebron.

So David went up thither, and his Men that were with him, and they dwelt in the Cities of Hebron.

And the Men of Judah came, and there they anointed David King over Judah.

But Abner, the Son of Ner, Captain of Saul's Hoſt took Iſhboſheth the Son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim, and made him King over Benjamin and over all Iſrael.

And the Time that David was King over Judah, was ſeven Years and ſix Months.

[x] Now there was long War between the Houſe of Saul and the Houſe of David. But the Houſe of Da-

[w] c. 2. v. 1, &c. [x] c. 3. v. 1.

vid

vid [y] waxed ſtronger and ſtronger, and the Houſe of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

[z] Then came all the Tribes of Iſrael to David unto Hebron, and ſpake, Behold we are thy Boſe and thy Fleſh.

Alſo in Time paſt, when Saul was King over us, the Lord ſaid to thee, Thou ſhalt feed my People Iſrael, and thou ſhalt be a Captain over Iſrael.

So King David made a League with them in Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David King over Iſrael.

And David went on and grew great, and the Lord God of Hoſts was with him.

And David perceived that the Lord had eſtabliſh'd him King over Iſrael, and that he had exalted his Kingdom for his People Iſrael's Sake.

But when the Philiſtines heard that they had anointed David King over Iſrael, all the Philiſtines came up to ſeek David.

And David enquired of the Lord ſaying, Shall I go up to the Philiſtines? Wilt thou deliver them into my Hands? And the Lord ſaid, Go up; I will deliver them into thine Hands.

And David came to Baal-perazim. And he ſmote them there and ſaid, The Lord hath broken forth upon mine Enemies.

And the Philiſtines came up yet again, and ſpread themſelves in the Valley of Rephaim.

And when David inquired of the Lord, he ſaid, Thou ſhalt not go up: but fetch a Compaſs behind them, and come upon them over againſt the Mulberry Trees.

And when thou heareſt the Sound of a going in the Tops of the Mulberry Trees, then thou ſhalt beſtir thyſelf; for then ſhall the Lord go out before thee.

And David did ſo as the Lord had commanded him, and ſmote the Philiſtines from Geba unto Gazer.

[a] And David gathered together all the choſen Men of Iſrael, to bring up the Ark of God from Kirjath-jearim.

[y] i. e. *grew.* [z] c. 5. v. 1, *&c.* [a] c. 6. v. 1, *&c.*

And

And they ſet the Ark of God on a new Cart, and brought it out of the Houſe of Abinadab. And Uzzah and Ahio the Sons of Abinadab, drave the new Cart.

And when they came to Nachon's Threſhing-floor, Uzzah put forth his Hand to the Ark of God and took hold of it; for the Oxen ſhook it.

And God ſmote him there for his [b] Error, and there he died by the Ark of God.

And David was afraid that Day, and ſaid, How ſhall the Ark of the Lord come to me?

So David carried it aſide into the Houſe of Obededom the Gittite. And it continued there three Months. And the Lord bleſſed Obededom and all his Houſhold. And it was told David, The Lord hath bleſſed the Houſe of Obededom, becauſe of the Ark of God. So David went and brought up the Ark, from the Houſe of Obededom, into the City of David.

And Michal the Daughter of Saul ſaw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and ſhe went out to meet David, and ſaid, How glorious was the King of Iſrael to Day, who uncover'd himſelf in the Eyes of the Handmaids of his Servants, as one of the vain Fellows ſhameleſly uncovereth himſelf!

And David ſaid, It was before the Lord. And I will be yet more vile than thus. And of the Maid-Servants which thou haſt ſpoken of, them ſhall I be had in Honour.

Therefore Michal, the Daughter of Saul, had no Child untill the Day of her Death.

LESSON XXV.

Of Bathſheba. David *reproved by* Nathan.

[c] And David ſent Joab and all Iſrael, and they beſieged Rabbah; but David tarried at Jeruſalem.

And it came to paſs in an Even Tide, David walked upon the Roof of the King's Houſe; and he ſaw a Woman waſhing herſelf, and the Woman was very beautiful.

[b] *Raſhneſs, or Sin.* [c] c. 11. v. 1, *&c.*

And

And David ſent, and enquired after the Woman and took her. And he lay with her. And ſhe returned unto her Houſe.

And the Woman, even Bathſheba, the Wife of Uriah the Hittite conceived, and ſent and told David, I am with Child.

And David ſent to Joab ſaying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab ſent Uriah to David.

And David demanded of him, how the People did, and how the War proſper'd?

And David ſaid, go down to thy Houſe and waſh thy Feet. And Uriah departed out of the King's Houſe.

But Uriah ſlept at the Door of the King's Houſe, and went not down to his own Houſe.

And when they told David, he ſaid unto Uriah, Why didſt not thou go down unto thine Houſe?

And Uriah ſaid, My Lord Joab, and the Servants of my Lord are encamped in the open Field. Shall I then go into mine Houſe, to eat and to drink?

And David wrote a Letter to Joab by Uriah, ſaying, Set Uriah in the Fore-front of the Battle, that he may die.

And Joab aſſigned Uriah unto a Place where he knew that valiant Men were.

And the Men of the City came out, and there fell ſome of the People, and Uriah the Hittite died alſo.

And when the Wife of Uriah heard that her Huſband was dead, ſhe mourned for her Huſband.

And when the Mourning was paſt, David ſent, and ſhe became his Wife and bare him a Son: but the Thing that David had done diſpleaſed the Lord.

[d] And the Lord ſent Nathan unto David. And he ſaid unto him, There were two Men in one City, the one rich and the other poor.

And the rich Man had exceeding many Flocks and Herds:

But the poor Man had nothing ſave one little Ewe-lamb, which he had bought and nouriſhed up. And it grew up together with him and his Children, and lay in his Boſom, and was unto him as a Daughter.

And there came a Traveller unto the rich Man, and he ſpared to take of his own Flock and of his own

[d] c. 12. v. 1, &c.

Herd: but took the poor Man's Lamb and dreſſed it, for the Man that was come to him.

And David's Anger was greatly kindled, and he ſaid, As the Lord liveth, the Man who hath done this Thing is worthy to die.

He ſhall reſtore the Lamb four fold, becauſe he did this Thing, and becauſe he had no Pity.

And Nathan ſaid to David, Thou art the Man. Thus ſaith the Lord GOD of Iſrael, I anointed thee King over Iſrael, and I delivered thee out of the Hand of Saul. And I gave thee thy Maſter's Houſe and thy Maſter's Wives into thy Boſom, and gave thee the Houſe of Iſrael and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given thee ſuch and ſuch Things.

Wherefore haſt thou deſpiſed the Commandment of the Lord, to do Evil in his Sight? Thou haſt ſlain Uriah with the Sword of the Children of Ammon, and haſt taken his Wife to be thy Wife.

Now therefore the Sword ſhall never depart from thy Houſe. Thus ſaith the Lord, behold, I will [d] raiſe up Evil againſt thee out of thine own Houſe, and I will † take thy Wives before thine Eyes, and give them to thy Neighbour. Thou didſt it ſecretly; but I will do this Thing before all Iſrael and before the Sun.

And David ſaid unto Nathan, I have ſinned againſt the Lord. And Nathan ſaid unto David, The Lord hath [e] put away thy Sin; thou ſhalt not die.

Howbeit, becauſe thou haſt given great Occaſion to the Enemies of the Lord to blaſpheme, the Child [f] alſo that is born ſhall ſurely die.

And Nathan departed. And the Lord ſtruck the Child, and it was very ſick.

And David beſought the Lord and faſted, and lay all Night upon the Earth.

And on the ſeventh Day the Child died. Then David aroſe, and came into the Houſe of the Lord. And

[d] i. e. *I will ſuffer it to ariſe.* † i. e. *ſuffer them to be taken.*
[e] *So far that thou ſhalt not die for it.*
[f] *beſide the Sword in thy Houſe.*

when

when he required, they ſet Bread before him and he did eat.

Then ſaid his Servants, What Thing is this? Thou didſt faſt while the Child was alive: but when he was dead, thou didſt riſe and eat Bread.

And he ſaid, While the Child was alive, I faſted and wept: for I ſaid, Who can tell, whether GOD will be gracious to me that the Child may live.

But now he is dead, wherefore ſhould I faſt? Can I bring him back again? I ſhall go to him, but he ſhall not return to me.

And David comforted Bathſheba, and ſhe bare him a Son, and he called his Name Solomon.

LESSON XXVI.

Of Amnon *and* Abſalom.

[g] And it came to paſs [h] after this, that Abſalom the Son of David had a fair Siſter whoſe Name was Tamar, and Amnon the Son of David loved her.

And Amnon lay down and feigned himſelf ſick, and when the King was come to ſee him, Amnon ſaid, I pray thee, let Tamar my Siſter come, and make me Cakes, that I may eat at her Hand.

And David ſent home to Tamar. And Tamar went to her Brother Amnon's Houſe.

And Amnon ſaid, Have out all Men from me. And they went out. And he took hold of Tamar and ſaid, Lie with me.

And ſhe anſwered him, Nay, my Brother, no ſuch Thing ought to be done in Iſrael.

Howbeit, he would not hearken unto her Voice, and being ſtronger than ſhe, he forced her.

Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, and he ſaid unto her, Ariſe, be gone.

And he ſaid unto his Servant, Put this Woman out from me. Then his Servant brought her out.

[g] c. 13. v. 1, &c. [h] *About a Year after the Child died.*

And

And Tamar put Aſhes on her Head, and laid her Hand on her Head and went on crying.

And Tamar remained deſolate in her Brother Abſalom's Houſe.

And after two full Years, Abſalom had Sheep-ſhearers in Baal-hazor: and Abſalom [i] invited all the King's Sons.

Now Abſalom had commanded his Servants, When I ſay unto you, Smite Amnon, then kill him, fear not. Have not I commanded you?

And the Servants of Abſalom did as he had commanded. Then all the King's Sons aroſe and fled.

But Abſalom fled and went to Geſhur, and was there three Years.

And after three Years, [k] the King ſaid unto Joab, Go, bring the Young Man Abſalom again.

So Joab aroſe and went to Geſhur, and brought Abſalom to Jeruſalem.

And the King ſaid, Let him turn to his own Houſe, and let him not ſee my Face.

But in all Iſrael there was none to be ſo much praiſed as Abſalom for his Beauty: from the Sole of his Foot even to the Crown of his Head, there was no Blemiſh in him.

So Abſalom dwelt two full Years in Jeruſalem, and ſaw not the King's Face. And after two Years, the King called for Abſalom; and he came and bowed himſelf on his Face to the Ground; and the King kiſſed Abſalom.

[l] And it came to paſs after this, that Abſalom roſe up early, and ſtood beſide the Way of the Gate; and when any Man came to the King for Judgment, Abſalom ſaid, Of what City art thou? And he ſaid, Thy Matters are good and right, but there is no Man deputed from the King to hear thee.

Abſalom ſaid moreover, O that I were made Judge in the Land, that every Man might come unto me, and I would do him Juſtice.

[i] *to the Feaſt he then made.* [k] c. 14. v. 21, *&c.*
[l] c. 15. v. 1, *&c.*

And when any Man came nigh unto him to do him Obeiſance, Abſalom put forth his Hand and took him and kiſſed him.

And on this Manner did Abſalom to all Iſrael, that came to the King for Judgment: So Abſalom ſtole the Hearts of the Men of Iſrael.

LESSON XXVII.

Abſalom's *Rebellion.*

[m] And it came to paſs [n] after forty Years, that Abſalom ſaid unto the King, Let me go and pay my Vow which I have vowed unto the Lord in Hebron.

And the King ſaid unto him, Go in Peace. So he aroſe and went to Hebron.

But Abſalom ſent Spies throughout all the Tribes of Iſrael, ſaying, As ſoon as ye hear the Sound of the Trumpet, then ye ſhall ſay, Abſalom reigneth in Hebron.

And Abſalom ſent for Ahithophel, David's Counſellor. And the Conſpiracy was ſtrong; for the People increaſed daily with Abſalom.

And there came a Meſſenger to David. And David ſaid unto his Servants which were with him at Jeruſalem, Ariſe, and let us flee. And they ſaid, Thy Servants are ready to do whatſoever my Lord the King ſhall appoint.

And the King went forth, and all his Houſhold after him; and he left ten Women, to keep the Houſe.

And the King went forth and all his Servants paſſed on beſide him, and all the Cherethites and all the Pelethites and all the Gittites, ſix hundred Men, which [o] came after him from Gath, paſſed on before the King.

Then ſaid the King to Ittai, the Gittite, Wherefore goeſt thou alſo with us? Whereas thou cameſt but [p] Yeſterday, ſhould I this Day make thee go up and down with us? Seeing I go whither I may. Return thou and take back thy Brethren. Mercy and Truth be with thee.

[m] c. 15. v. 7, *&c.* [n] *when he was forty Years old.*
[o] *above thirty Years before* [p] *a little while ago.*

And

And Ittai anſwered, As the Lord liveth and as my Lord the King liveth, ſurely in what Place my Lord the King ſhall be, whether in Death or Life, even there alſo will thy Servant be.

And the Country wept with a loud Voice, and all the People paſſed over, and the King paſſed over the Brook Kidron, toward the Way of the Wilderneſs.

And lo Zadok alſo and the Levites, bearing the Ark of the Covenant. And the King ſaid unto Zadok, Carry back the Ark of GOD. If I find Favour in the Eyes of the Lord, he will bring me again, and ſhew me both it and his Habitation.

But if he ſay, I have no Delight in thee, here I am, let him do as ſeemeth Good unto him.

And David went up by the Aſcent of Mount Olivet, going up and weeping, and had his Head covered; and he went barefoot; and all the People covered every Man his Head, and they went up, weeping as they went.

And one told David, Behold Ahithophel is with Abſalom. And David ſaid, O Lord, turn the Counſel of Ahithophel into Fooliſhneſs.

And when David was come to the Top of the Mount, Huſhai the Archite came to meet him.

And David ſaid, Return to the City and be with Abſalom; then mayſt thou defeat the Counſel of Ahithophel.

So Huſhai, David's Friend, came into the City, and Abſalom came into Jeruſalem.

[p] And when David came to Bahurim, behold a Man of the Houſe of Saul, Shimei the Son of Gerah, came forth and [q] curſed as he came.

And he ſaid, Come out, come out, thou Man of Blood, and thou Man of Belial.

The Lord hath returned upon thee all the Blood of the Houſe of Saul, in whoſe Stead thou haſt reigned, And behold thou art taken in thy Miſchief, becauſe thou art a bloody Man.

[p] c. 16. v. 5, &c. [q] *or, reviled.*

Then ſaid Abiſhai, Why ſhould this dead Dog curſe my Lord the King? Let me go over, and take off his Head.

And the King ſaid, Let him curſe, becauſe the Lord [r] hath ſaid unto him, Curſe David. Who then ſhall ſay, Wherefore haſt thou done ſo?

Behold my Son which came forth of my Bowels ſeeketh my Life: how much more may this Benjamite?

It may be that the Lord will look upon mine Affliction, and will requite me Good for his curſing this Day.

LESSON XXVIII.

The End of Abſalom's *Rebellion.*

And Abſalom, and all the People, the Men of Iſrael, came to Jeruſalem, and Ahithophel with him.

And when Huſhai the Archite came unto Abſalom, Abſalom ſaid, Why wenteſt thou not with thy Friend?

And Huſhai ſaid, Nay, but whom all the Men of Iſrael chuſe, with him will I abide.

Then ſaid Abſalom to Ahithophel, Give Counſel what we ſhall do?

And Ahithophel ſaid unto Abſalom, Go in unto thy Father's Concubines which he hath left to keep the Houſe; and all Iſrael ſhall hear that thou art abhorred of thy Father: then ſhall the Hands of all that are with thee be ſtrong.

So they ſpread Abſalom a Tent upon the Top of the Houſe, and Abſalom went in unto them in the Sight of all Iſrael.

And the Counſel of Ahithophel in thoſe Days, was as if a Man had enquired at the Oracle of GOD.

[s] Moreover Ahithophel ſaid, Let me now chuſe out twelve thouſand Men, and I will purſue after David this Night.

And I will come upon him while he his weary and weak-handed; and all the People that are with him ſhall

[r] i. e. *It is by his peculiar Providence.* [s] c. 17. v. 1, &c.

flee;

flee; and I will ſmite the King only: So all the People ſhall be in Peace.

And the ſaying pleaſed Abſalom well, and all the Elders of Iſrael.

Then ſaid Abſalom, Call now Huſhai the Archite, and let us hear likewiſe what he ſaith.

And Abſalom ſaid unto Huſhai, Ahithophel hath ſpoken after this Manner. Shall we do after his Word? If not, ſpeak thou.

And Huſhai ſaid, The Counſel Ahithophel hath given, is not good at this Time.

For thou knoweſt thy Father and his Men, that they be mighty Men, and they are [t] chafed in their Minds, as a Bear robbed of her Whelps; and thy Father is a Man of War, and will not lodge with the People.

And it ſhall come to paſs, when ‡ ſome be overthrown at the firſt, that whoſoever heareth it ſhall ſay, There is a Slaughter among the People of Abſalom. And he alſo that is valiant, ſhall utterly melt.

Therefore I counſel, that all Iſrael be gathered unto thee, as the Sand that is by the Sea for Multitude.

So ſhall we come upon him as the Dew falleth on the Ground; and of all that are with him, there ſhall not be left ſo much as one.

And Abſalom and all the Men of Iſrael ſaid, The Counſel of Huſhai is better than the Counſel of Ahithophel; for the Lord had appointed to defeat the good Counſel of Ahithophel.

And when Ahithophel ſaw that his Counſel was not follow'd, he gat him to his Houſe and put his Houſhold in order, and hanged himſelf.

Then David aroſe and paſſed over Jordan; And Abſalom paſſed over Jordan, and all Iſrael with him.

And David came to Mahanaim, [u] and he numbered the People that were with him, and ſet Captains of thouſands and Captains of hundreds.

And the King commanded all the Captains, Deal gently for my Sake with the young Man, even with Abſalom.

[t] *that is, fretted.* ‡ *ſome of Abſalom's Men.* [u] c. 18. v. 1, &c.

So the People went out into the Field againſt Iſrael; and the Battle was in the Wood of Ephraim,

Where the People of Iſrael were ſlain before the Servants of David, with a great Slaughter.

And Abſalom met the Servants of David, and Abſalom rode upon a Mule, and the Mule went under the thick Boughs of a great Oak, and his Head caught hold of the Oak, and he was taken up, and the Mule that was under him went away.

And a certain Man ſaw it, and told Joab. And Joab took three Darts in his Hand, and went and thruſt them through the Heart of Abſalom, while he was yet alive in the Midſt of the Oak.

And Joab blew the Trumpet, and the People returned from purſuing after Iſrael; and all Iſrael fled every one to his Tent.

LESSON XXIX.

David's *Reſtoration. He numbers the People.*

[u] And the Heart of all the Men of Judah was bowed, even as the Heart of one Man: ſo that they ſent this Word unto the King, Return thou and all thy Servants.

So the King returned and came to Jordan, and Judah came to Gilgal, to conduct the King over Jordan.

And Shimei the Son of Gera haſted and came down with the Men of Judah, and a thouſand Men of Benjamin with him.

And he fell down before the King and ſaid, [w] Let not my Lord impute Iniquity unto me, neither do thou [w] remember that which thy Servant did perverſely, in the Day that my Lord went out of Jeruſalem.

But Abiſhai ſaid, ſhall not Shimei be put to death, becauſe he curſed the Lord's Anointed?

And David ſaid, Shall any Man be put to Death this Day? Do I not know, that I am this Day King over Iſrael?

Therefore the King ſaid unto Shimei, Thou ſhalt not die. And the King ſware unto him.

[u] c. 19. v. 1, &c. [w] i. e. *Let him forgive it.*

And

And Barzillai the Gilliadite went over Jordan with the King, to conduct him over Jordan.

Now Barzillai was a very aged Man, and he had provided the King of Suſtenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great Man.

And the King ſaid unto Barzillai, Come with me, and I will feed thee with me in Jeruſalem?

And Barzillai ſaid unto the King, How many Years have I to live, that I ſhould go up unto Jeruſalem?

I am this Day fourſcore Years old. Can I taſte what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear any more the Voice of ſinging Men or ſinging Women? Wherefore then ſhould thy Servant be yet a Burthen to my Lord the King?

Let thy Servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own City, and be buried by the Grave of my Father and of my Mother. But behold thy Servant Chimham: let him go over with my Lord the King, and do to him what ſhall ſeem good unto thee.

And the King anſwered, I will do to him that which ſhall ſeem good unto thee: and whatſoever thou ſhalt require, that will I do for thee.

And all the People went over Jordan; and when the King was come over, he kiſſed Barzillai and bleſſed him; and he returned unto his own Place.

[x] And again the Anger of the Lord was kindled againſt Iſrael: and [y] he moved David to ſay, Go, [z] number the People.

And when they had gone through all the Land, they gave up the Number of the People unto the King.

And in the Morning the Word of the Lord came unto the Prophet Gad. And he came to David and ſaid unto him, Shall ſeven Years of Famine come unto thee in thy Land? Or wilt thou flee three Months before thy Enemies? Or that there be three Days Peſtilence in thy Land?

And David ſaid unto Gad, I am in a great Strait, let us fall now into the Hand of the Lord, (for his Mercies are great) and let me not fall into the Hand of Man.

[x] c. 24. v. 1, *&c.* [y] i. e. *Satan.*

[z] *truſting in them, and not in* GOD.

So

So the Lord ſent a Peſtilence upon Iſrael, from the Morning even to the Time appointed. And there died of the People, from Dan to Beerſheba, ſeventy thouſand Men.

And David ſpake unto the Lord, when he ſaw the Angel of the Lord that ſmote the People and ſaid, Lo, I have ſinned, and I have done wickedly; but theſe Sheep, what have they done?

And Gad came that Day to David and ſaid, Go, rear an Altar unto the Lord, in the Threſhing-floor of Araunah the Jebuſite.

And David went, and built there an Altar unto the Lord, and offered Burnt-offerings and Peace-offerings. So the Lord was intreated for the Land, and the Plague was ſtay'd from Iſrael.

LESSON XXX.

Of Solomon's *Wiſdom.*

[a] Now the Days of David drew nigh that he ſhould die, and he charged Solomon his Son ſaying,

I go the Way of all the Earth; be thou ſtrong therefore and ſhew thyſelf a Man.

And keep the Charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his Ways, that thou mayſt proſper in all thou doeſt:

That the Lord may continue his Word which he ſpake concerning me, ſaying, If thy Children walk before me in Truth, with all their Heart and with all their Soul, there ſhall not fail thee a Man on the Throne of Iſrael.

So David ſlept with his Fathers, and Solomon ſat upon the Throne of David his Father.

[b] And the King went to Gibeon to ſacrifice there. And the Lord appeared to Solomon in a Dream by Night, and God ſaid, Aſk what I ſhall give thee.

And Solomon ſaid, O Lord, Thou haſt made thy Servant King, inſtead of David my Father. And I

[a] 1. *Kings*, c. 2. v. 1. [b] c. 3. v. 4, &c

am

am but a little Child; I know not how to go out or come in.

Give therefore thy Servant an underſtanding Heart, that I may diſcern between Good and Evil.

And God ſaid unto him, Becauſe thou haſt aſked this Thing, and haſt not aſked for thyſelf long Life, neither Riches, but haſt aſked for thyſelf, Underſtanding to diſcern Judgment:

Behold, I have done according to thy Words; Lo, I have given thee a wiſe and an underſtanding Heart.

And I have alſo given thee Riches and Honour: and if thou wilt keep my Statutes, then I will lengthen thy Days.

And Solomon came to Jeruſalem. And there came two Women unto the King, and the one ſaid, O my Lord, I and this Woman live in one Houſe, and I was delivered of a Child. And the third Day after this Woman was delivered alſo. And there was none in the Houſe, ſave we two.

And this Woman's Child died in the Night. And ſhe aroſe while I ſlept, and took my Son from beſide me, and laid her dead Child in my Boſom.

And when I aroſe in the Morning, behold the Child was dead; but when I had conſidered it, it was not my Son.

And the other Woman ſaid, Nay, but the Living is my Son and the Dead is thine.

And the King ſaid, Bring me a Sword. And they brought a Sword. And he ſaid, Divide the Living Child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.

Then ſpake the Woman whoſe the Child was, O my Lord, give her the Child, and in no wiſe ſlay it. (But the other ſaid, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.)

Then the King ſaid, Give her the Living Child; ſhe is the Mother thereof.

And all Iſrael heard, and they feared the King; for they ſaw that the Wiſdom of God was in him.

[c] And God gave Solomon Wiſdom and Underſtand-

[c] c. 4. v. 29, &c.

ing,

ing, exceeding much, and Largeneſs of Heart, even as the Sand that is on the Sea-ſhore.

And he ſpake of Trees, from the Cedar-tree that is in Lebanon, even unto the Hyſſop that ſpringeth out of the Wall.

And there came of all People to hear the Wiſdom of Solomon, from all the Kings of the Earth.

[d] And in the fourth Year of Solomon's Reign over Iſrael, he began to build the Houſe of the Lord.

And in the eleventh Year was the Houſe finiſhed; ſo he was ſeven Years in building it.

LESSON XXXI.

Of the Dedication of the Temple and of the Queen of Sheba.

[e] Then Solomon aſſembled all the Elders of Iſrael; and the Prieſts brought the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, unto his Place, into the [f] Oracle of the Houſe, to the moſt holy Place.

There was nothing in the Ark ſave the two Tables of Stone, which Moſes put there at Horeb.

And Solomon ſtood before the Altar of the Lord, in the Preſence of all the Congregation of Iſrael, and ſpread forth his Hands towards Heaven:

And he ſaid, O Lord God, there is no God like Thee, in Heaven above or in Earth beneath, who keepeſt Covenant and Mercy with thy Servants, that walk before Thee with all their Heart.

But will God indeed dwell on the Earth? Behold the Heaven and Heaven of Heavens cannot contain Thee; how much leſs this Houſe that I have builded?

Yet have Thou Reſpect unto the Prayer of thy Servant, O Lord my God, which he prayeth before Thee to Day:

That thine Eyes may be open toward this Houſe Night and Day, even toward the Place of which Thou haſt ſaid, My Name ſhall be there; that thou mayſt hearken unto the Prayer which thy Servant ſhall make in this Place.

[d] c. 6. v. 1, &c. [e] c. 8. v. 1, &c. [f] *The inmoſt Part.*

And

And hearken thou to the Supplication of thy People Iſrael, when they ſhall pray in this Place; and hear Thou in Heaven thy Dwelling-place, and when Thou heareſt, forgive.

If there be in the Land, Famine, or Blaſting or Peſtilence, if thy People be ſmitten down before the Enemy, if the Heaven is ſhut up and there is no Rain; whatſoever Plague, whatſoever Sickneſs there be:

What Prayer and Supplication ſoever is made by any Man, or by all thy People Iſrael, who ſhall know every Man the Plague of his own Heart, and ſhall ſpread forth his Hands toward this Houſe.

Then hear Thou in Heaven thy Dwelling-place and forgive, and give to every Man according to his Ways whoſe Heart thou knoweſt: (for Thou even Thou only knoweſt the Hearts of all the Children of Men:)

That they may fear Thee all the Days that they live, in the Land which Thou gaveſt unto our Fathers.

And when Solomon had made an end of praying, he aroſe from before the Altar of the Lord:

And he ſtood and bleſſed all the Congregation of Iſrael, with a loud Voice, ſaying,

The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our Fathers; let him not leave us, nor forſake us:

That he may incline our Hearts unto him, to walk in all his Ways, and to keep his Commandments.

And let theſe my Words wherewith I have made Supplication before the Lord, be nigh unto the Lord our God Day and Night:

That all the People of the Earth may know, that the Lord is God, and there is none elſe.

Let your Heart therefore be perfect with the Lord your God, to keep his Commandments, as at this Day.

And at that Time Solomon held a Feaſt and all Iſrael with him ſeven Days. On the eighth Day he ſent the People away; and they bleſſed the King, and went into their Tents joyful and glad of Heart, for all the Goodneſs of the Lord to Iſrael his People.

[f] And when the Queen of Sheba heard of the Fame of Solomon, ſhe came to prove him with hard Queſtions.

[f] c. 10. v. 1, &c.

And

And ſhe communed with him of all that was in her Heart, and Solomon told her all her Queſtions.

And when ſhe had ſeen all Solomon's Wiſdom, there was no more Spirit in her.

And ſhe ſaid, It was a true Report that I heard in my own Land; but behold the Half was not told me.

Bleſſed be the Lord thy GOD which ſet thee on the Throne of Iſrael, to do Judgment and Juſtice.

And Solomon gave unto the Queen of Sheba all her Deſire; ſo ſhe turned and went to her own Country.

‡ But it came to paſs when Solomon was old, that his Wives turned away his Heart after other Gods.

And Solomon did Evil in the Sight of the Lord, and ſacrificed unto their Gods.

And the Lord was angry with Solomon, and ſaid unto him, Foraſmuch as thou haſt not kept my Covenant, I will rend the Kingdom from thee. Notwithſtanding in thy Days I will not do it, but I will rend it out of the Hand of thy Son.

Howbeit, I will give one Tribe to thy Son, for David my Servant's Sake.

And Solomon ſlept with his Fathers, and Rehoboam his Son reigned in his Stead.

LESSON XXXII.

Of Rehoboam *and* Jeroboam.

* And all Iſrael came to make Rehoboam King. And Jeroboam the Son of Nebat, and all the Congregation of Iſrael ſpake to Rehoboam, ſaying,

Thy Father made our Yoke grievous: now therefore make thou his Yoke lighter, and we will ſerve thee.

And he ſaid, Depart for three Days. And he ſaid to the old Men that ſtood before Solomon his Father, How do you adviſe that I ſhould anſwer this People?

And they ſaid, If thou wilt this Day ſpeak good Words unto them, then they will be thy Servants for ever.

And he ſaid unto the young Men, What Counſel

‡ c. 11. v. 4, &c. * c. 12. v. 1, &c.

give

give ye? And the young Men that were grown up with him ſaid, Thus ſhalt thou ſay, My Father hath chaſtiſed you with Whips, but I will chaſtiſe you with Scorpions.

So the King anſwered them after the Counſel of the young Men; for the Cauſe was from the Lord.

And when all Iſrael ſaw that the King hearkened not unto them, the People anſwered the King, ſaying, To your Tents, O Iſrael. Now ſee to thine own Houſe, David. So Iſrael rebell'd againſt the Houſe of David unto this Day.

And they made Jeroboam King over Iſrael; only the Tribe of Judah followed the Houſe of David.

And Jeroboam ſaid in his Heart, If this People go up to do Sacrifice at Jeruſalem, then ſhall the Hearts of this People turn again unto Rehoboam King of Judah.

Whereupon the King made two Calves of Gold and ſaid unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jeruſalem; behold thy Gods, O Iſrael.

And he ſet the one in Bethel and the other in Dan. And the People went to worſhip before them.

And he offer'd upon the Altar which he had made in Bethel. And [h] behold, there came a Man of GOD out of Judah, by the Word of the Lord unto Bethel; and Jeroboam ſtood by the Altar to burn Incenſe.

And he cried and ſaid, O Altar, Altar, thus ſaith the Lord, behold a Child ſhall be born unto the Houſe of David, Joſiah by Name, and upon thee ſhall he offer the Prieſts that burn Incenſe upon thee.

And he ſaid, This is the Sign; behold the Altar ſhall be rent, and the Aſhes that are upon it ſhall be poured out.

And Jeroboam put forth his Hand, ſaying, Lay hold on him. And his Hand dried up, ſo that he could not pull it in again to him. The Altar alſo was rent, and the Aſhes poured out.

And the King ſaid unto the Man of GOD, Intreat the Lord thy GOD, that my Hand may be reſtored me again.

[h] c. 13. 1, &c.

And the Man of God beſought the Lord, and the King's Hand was reſtored and became as it was before.

Yet Jeroboam returned not from his evil Way, but made Prieſts of the loweſt of the People.

And this Thing became Sin to the Houſe of Jeroboam, to deſtroy it from off the Face of the Earth.

[i] And Jeroboam ſlept with his Fathers, and Nadab his Son reigned in his Stead.

Rehoboam was forty and one Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned ſeventeen Years in Jeruſalem.

And Judah did Evil in the Sight of the Lord, and provoked him to Jealouſy with their Sins.

And in the fifth Year of Rehoboam, Shiſhak King of Egypt, came up againſt Jeruſalem:

And he took away the Treaſures of the Houſe of the Lord, and the Treaſures of the King's Houſe, and all the Shields of Gold which Solomon had made.

And there was War between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their Days.

LESSON XXXIII.

Elijah *fed by the Ravens.*

[k] And Elijah the Tiſhbite ſaid unto Ahab, King of Iſrael, As the Lord God of Iſrael liveth, there ſhall not be Dew nor Rain theſe Years, but according to my Word.

And the Word of the Lord came unto him, ſaying,

Get thee hence and hide thyſelf by the Brook Cherith, that is before Jordan:

And thou ſhalt drink of the Brook, and I have commanded the Ravens to feed thee there.

So he went and dwelt by the Brook Cherith, and the Ravens brought him Bread and Fleſh in the Morning, and Bread and Fleſh in the Evening, and he drank of the Brook.

[i] c. 14. v. 20, &c. [k] c. 17. v. 1, &c.

And

And it came to pass, after a while, that the Brook dried up, because there had been no Rain in the Land.

And the Word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon; behold I have commanded a Widow Woman there to sustain thee.

So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the Gate of the City, behold, the Widow was there gathering of Sticks: and he said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little Water.

And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her and said, Bring me I pray thee, a morsel of Bread in thine Hand.

And she said, as the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a Cake, but a handful of Meal in a Barrel, and a little Oil in a Cruse; and behold I am gathering two Sticks, that I and my Son may eat it and die.

And Elijah said unto her, Fear not: make me a little Cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee, and for thy Son.

For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The Barrel of Meal shall not waste, neither shall the Cruse of Oil fail, unto the Day that the Lord sendeth Rain upon the Earth.

And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah, and she and he and her House did eat many Days.

And the Barrel of Meal wasted not, neither did the Cruse of Oil fail.

And after these Things, the Son of the Woman fell sick, and his Sickness was so sore that there was no Breath left in him.

And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou Man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my Sin to remembrance and to slay my Son?

And he said unto her, Give me thy Son. And he took him and carried him up into a Loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own Bed.

And he cried unto the Lord and said, O Lord my God, hast thou also brought Evil upon the Widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her Son?

And he ſtretched himſelf upon the Child three Times, and cried unto the Lord, and ſaid, O Lord, my God, I pray Thee, let this Child's Soul come into him again.

And the Lord heard the Voice of Elijah, and the Soul of the Child came into him again, and he revived.

And Elijah took the Child, and brought him down out of the Chamber into the Houſe, and deliver'd him unto his Mother. And Elijah ſaid, See, thy Son liveth.

And the Woman ſaid to Elijah, Now I know that thou art a Man of God, and that the Word of the Lord in thy Mouth is Truth.

LESSON XXXIV.

Of Elijah *and the Prophets of* Baal.

[1] And in the third † Year, the Lord ſaid unto Elijah, Go, ſhew thyſelf unto Ahab, and I will ſend Rain upon the Land.

And Elijah went to ſhew himſelf unto Ahab: and there was a ſore Famine in Samaria.

And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the Governour of his Houſe: (now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly:)

And Ahab ſaid, Go into the Land, unto all Fountains and Brooks of Water: peradventure we may find Graſs, to ſave the Horſes and Mules alive.

So they divided the Land between them to paſs through it, Ahab went one Way and Obadiah went another.

And as Obadiah was in the Way, Elijah met him. And he fell on his Face and ſaid, Art thou my Lord Elijah?

And he anſwered, I am: Go tell thy Lord, Behold Elijah is here.

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

[1] *c.* 18. 1, *&c.* † *that is, of the Famine.*

And

And when Ahab ſaw Elijah, he ſaid unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Iſrael?

And he anſwer'd, I have not troubled Iſrael, but thou and thy Father's Houſe, in that ye have forſaken the Commandments of the Lord, and have followed [m] Baalim.

Now therefore, ſend and gather to me all Iſrael, to Mount Carmel, and the Prophets of Baal, four hundred and fifty, and the Prophets of the Groves, four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's Table.

So Ahab ſent unto all the Children of Iſrael, and gather'd the Prophets together unto Mount Carmel.

And Elijah came unto all the People and ſaid, How long halt ye between two Opinions? If the Lord be GOD, follow him; but if Baal, follow him. And the People anſwer'd him not a Word.

Then ſaid Elijah, I only remain a Prophet of the Lord, but Baal's Prophets are four hundred and fifty.

Give us therefore two Bullocks; and let them chuſe one, and lay it on Wood, and put no Fire under; and I will dreſs the other and lay it on Wood, and put no Fire under.

And call ye upon the Name of your Gods, and I will call on the Name of the Lord. And the GOD that anſwereth by Fire, let him be GOD. And all the People anſwer'd and ſaid, It is well ſpoken.

And Elijah ſaid unto the Prophets of Baal, Chuſe you one Bullock and dreſs it firſt: and call on the Name of your Gods, but put no Fire under.

And they dreſſed the Bullock, and called on Baal from Morning until Even; but there was no Voice, nor any that anſwer'd.

And they cut themſelves, after their Manner, with Knives and Lancets, till the Blood guſh'd out upon them.

And Elijah ſaid unto all the People, Come near unto me. And he repaired the Altar of the Lord that was broken down.

And he made a Trench about the Altar, and cut the Bullock in Pieces, and laid him on the Wood and ſaid,

[m] i. e. *Idols, falſe Gods.*

Fill four Barrels of Water, and pour it on the Sacrifice and on the Wood.

And he ſaid, Do it the ſecond Time. And they did it the ſecond Time. And he ſaid, Do it the third Time. And they did it the third Time.

And the Water ran round about the Altar, and he filled the Trench alſo with Water.

And at the Time of offering the Evening Sacrifice, Elijah came near and ſaid, Lord GOD of Abraham, Iſaac and Iſrael, let it be known this Day, that Thou art GOD, and I am thy Servant.

Then the Fire of the Lord fell and conſumed the Burnt-ſacrifice and the Wood and the Stones, and licked up the Water that was in the Trench.

And when all the People ſaw it, they fell on their Faces and ſaid, The Lord he is the GOD, the Lord he is the GOD.

And Elijah ſaid unto them, Take the Prophets of Baal, let not one of them eſcape. And they took them, and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kiſhon and ſlew them there.

And Elijah ſaid unto Ahab, Get thee up; for there is a Sound of abundance of Rain.

And it came to paſs in the mean Time, that the Heaven was black with Clouds, and there was a great Rain.

And the Hand of the Lord was on Elijah; and he girded up his Loins, and ran before Ahab, to the entrance of Jezreel.

LESSON XXXV.

Elijah *flee's from* Jezebel.

[a] And Ahab told Jezebel his Wife, all that Elijah had done, and how he had ſlain all the Prophets with the Sword.

Then Jezebel ſent a Meſſenger unto Elijah, ſaying, So let the Gods do to me, and more alſo, if I make not thy Life as the Life of one of them by To-morrow about this Time.

[a] c. 19. 1, &c.

And

And he aroſe and went for his Life, and came to Beerſheba, which belongeth to Judah.

And he went a Day's Journey into the Wilderneſs, and ſat down under a Juniper-tree. And he requeſted for himſelf that he might die, and ſaid, It is enough: Now, O Lord, take away my Life; for I am not better than my Fathers.

And as he lay and ſlept under the Tree, an Angel touched him, and ſaid, Ariſe and eat.

And he looked, and behold there was a Cake baken on the Coals, and a Cruſe of Water at his Head. And he did eat and drink and laid him down again.

And the Angel of the Lord came again and touched him and ſaid, Ariſe and eat, becauſe the Journey is too great for thee.

And he aroſe and did eat and drink, and went in the Strength of that Meat forty Days and forty Nights, unto Horeb, the Mount of GOD:

And he came thither unto a Cave and lodged there: and behold the Word of the Lord came to him: and he ſaid unto him, What doſt thou here, Elijah?

And he ſaid, I have been very jealous for the Lord GOD of Hoſts; for the Children of Iſrael have forſaken thy Covenant, thrown down thine Altars, and ſlain thy Prophets with the Sword. And I only am left; and they ſeek my Life to take it away.

And [o] he ſaid, Go forth and ſtand upon the Mount before the Lord. And behold the Lord paſſed by, and a great ſtrong Wind rent the Mountains, and brake in Pieces the Rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the Wind: and after the Wind, an Earthquake; but the Lord was not in the Earthquake.

And after the Earthquake a Fire; but the Lord was not in the Fire: and after the Fire a ſtill, ſmall Voice.

And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his Face in his Mantle, and went and ſtood at the entering in of the Cave. And there came a Voice unto him and ſaid, What doſt thou here, Elijah?

And he ſaid, The Children of Iſrael have forſaken thy Covenant, and ſlain thy Prophets with the Sword,

[o] i. e. *The* WORD *of the* LORD; CHRIST.

And

And I, even I only, am left, and they ſeek my Life to take it away.

And the Lord ſaid unto him, Return to the Wilderneſs of Damaſcus, and anoint Hazael to be King over Syria.

And Jehu the Son of Nimſhi ſhalt thou anoint to be King over Iſrael; and Eliſha the Son of Shaphat to be Prophet in thy room.

And it ſhall come to paſs, that him that eſcapeth the Sword of Hazael, ſhall Jehu ſlay; and him that eſcapeth from the Sword of Jehu, ſhall Eliſha ſlay.

Yet have I left me ſeven thouſand in Iſrael, all the Knees which hath not bowed unto Baal, and every Mouth which watch not kiſſed him.

So he departed thence and found Eliſha the Son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve Yoke of Oxen, And Elijah paſſed by him, and caſt his Mantle upon him.

And he left the Oxen and ran after Elijah and ſaid, Let me, I pray thee, kiſs my Father and my Mother, and then I will follow thee.

And he return'd and took a Yoke of Oxen, and ſlew them and boiled their Fleſh, and gave unto the People, and they did eat. Then he aroſe and went after Elijah and miniſter'd unto him.

LESSON XXXVI.

The Syrians *overthrown.*

P And Benhadad the King of Syria gather'd all his Hoſt together, and there were thirty and two Kings with him; and he went up and beſieged Samaria.

And he ſent Meſſengers to Ahab and ſaid unto him, Thy Silver and thy Gold, thy Wives and thy Children are mine.

And Ahab anſwer'd, My Lord, O King, I am thine, and all that I have.

And the Meſſengers came again and ſaid, Thus ſaith Benhadad, I will ſend my Servants To-morrow about

P c. 20. v. 1, &c.

this

this Time, and it ſhall be that whatſoever is pleaſant in thine Eyes, they ſhall take it away.

And the King of Iſrael ſaid, Mark, I pray you, how this Man ſeeketh Miſchief. He ſent unto me for my Wives and my Children and my Silver and my Gold, and I denied him not.

And he ſaid unto the Meſſengers, Tell my Lord the King, All that thou didſt ſend for at the firſt, I will do: but this Thing I may not do.

And Benhadad ſent unto him and ſaid, The Gods do ſo unto me, and more alſo, if the Duſt of Samaria ſhall ſuffice for handfuls for all the People that follow me.

And he ſaid unto his Servants, Set yourſelves in Array. And they ſet themſelves in Array againſt the City.

And there came a Prophet unto Ahab, ſaying, Thus ſaith the Lord, Haſt thou ſeen all this great Multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into thine Hand this Day, and thou ſhalt know that I am the Lord.

And Ahab ſaid, By whom? And he ſaid, By the young Men of the Princes of the Provinces.

Then he number'd the young Men, and they were two hundred and thirty two; and after them he number'd all the People, being ſeven thouſand.

And the young Men went out at Noon. And they told Benhadad, There are Men come out of Samaria.

And he ſaid, Take them alive. So theſe young Men came out of the City; and the Army follow'd them.

And they ſlew every one his Man, and the Syrians fled, and Iſrael purſued and ſlew the Syrians with a great Slaughter.

And the Prophet came to the King of Iſrael and ſaid, At the Return of the Year the Syrians will come up.

And the Servants of the King of Syria ſaid unto him, Their Gods are Gods of the Hills; therefore they were ſtronger than us. But let us fight againſt them in the Plain, and ſurely we ſhall be ſtronger than they.

And he hearkened unto their Voice; and at the return of the Year, he number'd the Syrians, and went up to fight againſt Iſrael.

And the Children of Iſrael pitched before them, like

two

two little Flocks of Kids; but the Syrians filled the Country.

And there came a Man of GOD, and ſpake unto the King of Iſrael, Thus ſaith the Lord, Becauſe the Syrians ſaid, The Lord is GOD of the Hills, but he is not GOD of the Valleys: Therefore will I deliver all this Multitude into thine Hand, and ye ſhall know that I am the Lord.

And the ſeventh Day the Battle was joined. And Iſrael ſlew of the Syrians an hundred thouſand Footmen in one Day.

And Benhadad fled, and came into Aphek into an inner Chamber. And his Servants ſaid unto him, We have heard that the Kings of the Houſe of Iſrael are merciful Kings. Let us put Sack-cloth upon our Loins and Ropes upon our Heads, and go out to the King of Iſrael; peradventure he will ſave thy Life.

And they did ſo, and came to the King of Iſrael and ſaid, Thy Servant Benhadad ſaith, I pray thee, let me live. Then he ſaid, Go ye; bring him. Then Benhadad came forth, and he cauſed him to come up into the Chariot.

And Benhadad ſaid, The Cities which my Father took from thy Father I will reſtore, and thou ſhalt make Streets for thee in Damaſcus, as my Father made in Samaria. Then ſaid Ahab, I will ſend thee away with this Covenant. So he ſent him away.

LESSON XXXVII.

Of Naboth *the* Jezreelite.

[p] And Naboth the Jezreelite, who dwelt in Jezreel, had a Vineyard in Samaria, hard by the Palace of Ahab the King.

And Ahab ſaid unto Naboth, Give me thy Vineyard, and I will give thee a better Vineyard, or the Worth of it in Money.

And Naboth ſaid to Ahab, The Lord forbid, that I ſhould give unto thee the Inheritance of my Fathers.

[p] c. 21. 1, &c.

And

And Ahab came into his Houſe and laid down upon his Bed, and turned away his Face, and would eat no Bread.

And Jezebel came and ſaid unto him, Why is thy Spirit ſo ſad, that thou eateſt no Bread?

And he ſaid, I ſpake unto Naboth, ſaying, Give me thy Vineyard for Money, or I will give thee another Vineyard for it; and he would not.

And Jezebel ſaid, Doſt thou now govern the Kingdom of Iſrael? Ariſe, I will give thee the Vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

So ſhe wrote Letters in Ahab's Name, unto the Elders and Nobles of Jezreel, ſaying,

Proclaim a Faſt and ſet Naboth on high among the People, and ſet two Men, Sons of Belial, before him, to bear Witneſs, Thou didſt blaſpheme GOD and the King; and ſtone him, that he may die.

And the Elders and Nobles did as it was written in the Letters which ſhe had ſent unto them.

And when Jezebel heard, that Naboth was dead, She ſaid to Ahab, Ariſe, take Poſſeſſion of the Vineyard of Naboth; for he is not alive but dead.

And Ahab went down to the Vineyard of Naboth, to take Poſſeſſion of it.

And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah, ſaying, Go down to meet Ahab, King of Iſrael; behold he is in the Vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to poſſeſs it.

And thou ſhalt ſpeak unto him, ſaying, Thus ſaith the Lord, Haſt thou killed and alſo taken Poſſeſſion? In the Place where Dogs licked the Blood of Naboth, ſhall Dogs lick thy Blood, even thine.

And Ahab ſaid to Elijah, Haſt thou found me, O mine Enemy? And he ſaid, I have found thee, becauſe thou haſt ſold thyſelf to work Evil.

Behold, I will bring Evil upon thee, ſaith the Lord, and I will cut off from Ahab every Male, and will make thy Houſe like the Houſe of Jeroboam the Son of Nebat, for the Provocation where with thou haſt provoked me to Anger.

And of Jezebel alſo ſpake the Lord, ſaying, The Dogs ſhall eat Jezebel, by the Wall of Jezreel.

Him that dieth of Ahab in the City, the Dogs ſhall eat, and him that dieth in the Field, the Fowls of the the Air ſhall eat.

But there was none like unto Ahab, which did ſell himſelf to work Wickedneſs in the Sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his Wife ſtirred up.

And he did very abominably in following Idols, according to all Things as did the Amorites, whom the Lord caſt out before the Children of Iſrael.

And when Ahab heard thoſe Words, he rent his Cloaths, and put Sack-cloth on his Fleſh, and faſted and went ſoftly.

And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah, ſaying, Seeſt thou how Ahab humbleth himſelf before me? Becauſe he humbleth himſelf, I will not bring the Evil in his Days, but in his Son's Days will I bring the Evil upon his Houſe.

LESSON XXXVIII.

The Death of Ahab.

[q] And they continued three Years without War between Syria and Iſrael.

And in the third Year Jehoſhaphat the King of Judah came down to the King of Iſrael.

And Ahab ſaid, Know ye not that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we take it not out of the Hand of the King of Syria?

And he ſaid unto Jehoſhaphat, Wilt thou go with me to Battle to Ramoth-gilead?

And Jehoſhaphat ſaid, Enquire I pray thee, at the Word of the Lord To-day.

Then the King of Iſrael gather'd the Prophets together, about four hundred Men, and ſaid, Shall I go up againſt Ramoth-gilead, or ſhall I forbear? And they ſaid, Go up, for the Lord ſhall deliver it into the Hand of the King.

And Jehoſhaphat ſaid, Is there not here a Prophet of the Lord beſides, that we might enquire of him?

[q] c. 22. v. 1, &c.

And

And Ahab ſaid, there is one, Micaiah the Son of Imlah, but I hate him; for he doth not propheſie Good concerning me, but Evil.

Then the King called an Officer and ſaid, Haſten hither Micaiah the Son of Imlah.

And the Meſſenger ſaid unto Micaiah, Let thy Word, I pray thee, be like the Word of one of the Prophets.

And Micaiah ſaid, As the Lord liveth, what the Lord ſaith unto me, that will I ſpeak.

So he came to the King. And the King ſaid, Micaiah, ſhall we go againſt Ramoth-gilead, or ſhall we forbear? And he anſwered him, Go; for the Lord ſhall deliver it into the Hand of the King.

And the King ſaid, how many Times ſhall I adjure thee, that thou tell me nothing but that which is true?

And he ſaid, I ſaw all Iſrael ſcattered upon the Hills, as Sheep that have not a Shepherd. And the Lord ſaid, Theſe have no Maſter; let them return every Man to his Houſe in Peace.

And Ahab ſaid to Jehoſhaphat, did I not tell thee that he would propheſie no Good concerning me but Evil?

And he ſaid, Hear thou therefore the Word of the Lord. I ſaw the Lord ſitting on his Throne, and all the Hoſt of Heaven ſtanding by him, on his Right Hand and on his Left.

And the Lord ſaid, Who ſhall perſuade Ahab, that he may go up, and fall at Ramoth-gilead?

And there came forth a Spirit and ſtood before the Lord, and ſaid, I will perſuade him. I will be a lying Spirit in the Mouth of all his Prophets. And he ſaid, Thou wilt perſuade him.

Now therefore the Lord hath ſuffered a lying Spirit to enter into the Mouth of all theſe thy Prophets.

And the King of Iſrael ſaid, Put this Fellow in Priſon, and feed him with Bread of Affliction and Water of Affliction, until I come in Peace.

And Micaiah ſaid, If thou return at all in Peace, the Lord hath not ſpoken by me.

So the King of Iſrael and Jehoſhaphat the King of Judah went to Ramoth-gilead.

And the King of Iſrael ſaid, I will diſguiſe myſelf, but put thou on thy Robes.

But the King of Syria had commanded his Captains ſaying, Fight neither with ſmall nor great, ſave with the King of Iſrael.

And when the Captains ſaw Jehoſhaphat, they ſaid, Surely it is the King of Iſrael. And they turned aſide to fight againſt him. And Jehoſhaphat cried out.

And when they perceived that it was not the King of Iſrael, they turned back from purſuing him.

And a certain Man drew a Bow at a Venture, and ſmote the King of Iſrael between the Joints of the Harneſs.

And the Battle increaſed. And the King was ſtayed up in his Chariot, and died at Even: and the Blood ran out of the Wound, into the Midſt of the Chariot.

And there went a Proclamation throughout the Hoſt, about the going down of the Sun, ſaying, Every Man to his City, and every Man to his own Country.

So the King died, and one waſhed the Chariot in the Pool of Samaria: and the Dogs licked up his Blood, according unto the Word of the Lord.

LESSON XXXIX.

Elijah *taken up to Heaven.*

[r] And it came to paſs, when the Lord was about to take up Elijah into Heaven by a Whirlwind, that Elijah went with Eliſha from Gilgal.

And Elijah ſaid unto Eliſha, Tarry here, I pray thee, for the Lord hath ſent me to Bethel. And Eliſha ſaid, As the Lord liveth and as thy Soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.

And the Sons of the Prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Eliſha and ſaid, Knoweſt thou that the Lord will take away thy Maſter from thy Head To-day? And he ſaid, Yea, I know it; hold your Peace.

And Elijah ſaid unto him, Tarry here I pray thee, for the Lord hath ſent me to Jericho. But he ſaid, As

[r] 2 *Kings.* c. 2. v. i, &c.

the

the Lord liveth and as thy Soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

And Elijah ſaid unto him, Tarry I pray thee here, for the Lord hath ſent me to Jordan. And he ſaid, As the Lord liveth and as thy Soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

And fifty Men of the Sons of the Prophets went and ſtood to view afar off. And they two ſtood by Jordan.

And Elijah took his Mantle and wrapt it together, and ſmote the Waters, and they were divided hither and thither, ſo that they went over on dry Ground.

And it came to paſs, when they were gone over, that Elijah ſaid unto Eliſha, Aſk what I ſhall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Eliſha ſaid, I pray thee, let a double Portion of thy Spirit be upon me.

And he ſaid, Thou haſt aſked a hard Thing: nevertheleſs, if thou ſee when I am taken from thee, it ſhall be ſo unto thee; but if not, it ſhall not be ſo.

And it came to paſs, as they ſtill went on and talked, that behold there appeared a Chariot of Fire, and Horſes of Fire, and parted them both aſſunder, and Elijah went up by a Whirl-wind into Heaven.

And Eliſha ſaw it, and he cried, My Father, my Father, the Chariot of Iſrael and the Horſemen thereof, And he ſaw him no more. And he took hold of his own Cloaths and rent them.

He took up alſo the Mantle of Elijah which fell from him, and went back and ſtood by the Bank of Jordan.

And he took the Mantle of Elijah and ſmote the Waters and ſaid, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? And when he had ſmitten the Waters they parted hither and thither. And Eliſha went over.

And when the Sons of the Prophets which were to view at Jericho ſaw him, they ſaid, The Spirit of Elijah doth reſt on Eliſha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themſelves to the Ground.

And the Men of the City ſaid unto Eliſha, Behold the Situation of the City is pleaſant, as my Lord ſeeth, but the Water is naught, and the Ground barren.

And he ſaid, Bring me a new Cruſe, and put Salt therein. And they brought it to him.

And he went forth unto the Spring of the Waters and caſt the Salt in there and ſaid, Thus ſaith the Lord, I have healed theſe Waters; there ſhall not be from thence any more dearth or barren Land.

So the Waters were healed unto this Day, according to the Saying of Eliſha.

LESSON XL.

Of the Widow's Oil, and the Shunamite.

[s] Then there cried a certain Woman unto Eliſha ſaying, Thy Servant my Huſband is dead, and the Creditor is come to take unto him my two Sons to be Bond-men.

And Eliſha ſaid unto her, What haſt thou in the Houſe? And ſhe ſaid, I have nothing ſave a Pot of Oyl.

Then he ſaid, Go borrow Veſſels of all thy Neighbours. And when thou art come in, thou ſhalt pour out into all thoſe Veſſels, and thou ſhalt ſet aſide that which is full.

And ſhe did ſo. And when the Veſſels were full, ſhe ſaid unto her Son, Bring me yet a Veſſel. And he ſaid, There is not a Veſſel more: And the Oyl ſtayed.

Then ſhe came and told the Man of God. And he ſaid, Go, ſell the Oyl and pay thy Debt.

And there was a Day that Eliſha paſſed to Shunem, where was a great Woman; and ſhe conſtrained him to eat Bread. And as oft as he paſſed by, he turned in thither.

And ſhe ſaid unto her Huſband, I perceive this is a Man of God. Let us make a little Chamber, and let us ſet for him there a Bed and a Table and a Stool and a Candleſtick.

And it fell on a Day that he came, and turned into the Chamber and lay there.

[s] c. 4. v. 1. *&c.*

And

And he ſaid to Gehazi his Servant, What is to be done for this Shunamite? And Gehazi ſaid, She hath no Child, and her Huſband is old.

And he ſaid unto her, About this Seaſon, thou ſhalt embrace a Son. And the Woman conceived and bare a Son at that Seaſon.

And when the Child was grown, he went out one Day to his Father to the Reapers. And he ſaid, My Head, my Head! And they brought him to his Mother, and he ſat on her Knees till Noon, and then died.

And ſhe went up and laid him on the Bed of the Man of God. Then ſhe ſaddled an Aſs, and went unto the Man of God to Mount Carmel.

And ſhe came to him and caught him by the Feet, but Gehazi came near to thruſt her away. And Eliſha ſaid, Let her alone, for her Soul is vexed within her, and the Lord hath hid it from me.

Then ſhe ſaid, Did I deſire a Son of my Lord? Did I not ſay, Do not deceive me?

And ſhe ſaid, As the Lord liveth, I will not leave thee. And he aroſe and followed her.

And when Eliſha came, behold the Child was dead, and laid upon the Bed.

He went in therefore and ſhut the Door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord.

And he went and lay upon the Child and put his Mouth upon his Mouth, and his Eyes upon his Eyes and his Hands upon his Hands. And he ſtretched himſelf upon the Child, and the Fleſh of the Child waxed warm.

Then he returned and walked in the Houſe to and fro, and went up and ſtretched himſelf upon him, and the Child ſneezed ſeven Times, and the Child open'd his Eyes.

And he called Gehazi, and ſaid, Call the Shunamite. So he called her; and when ſhe was come in unto him, he ſaid, Take up thy Son.

Then ſhe went in, and fell at his Feet, and bowed herſelf to the Ground, and took up her Son and went out.

LESSON XLI.

The Cure of Naaman.

[u] Now Naaman, Captain of the Hoſt of the King of Syria, was a great Man and honourable: he was alſo a mighty Man of Valour; but he was a Leper.

And the Syrians had brought away Captive out of the Land of Iſrael, a little Maid, and ſhe waited on Naaman's Wife.

And ſhe ſaid unto her Miſtreſs, Would to GOD my Lord were with the Prophet that is in Samaria; for he would recover him of his Leproſy.

And the King of Syria ſaid, I will ſend a Letter unto the King of Iſrael. And Naaman brought the Letter to the King of Iſrael, ſaying, I have ſent Naaman my Servant to thee, that thou mayſt recover him of his Leproſy.

And the King of Iſrael rent his Cloaths and ſaid, Am I GOD, to kill and to make alive?

And Eliſha ſent to the King, ſaying, Wherefore haſt thou rent thy Cloaths? Let him come now to me, and he ſhall know, that there is a Prophet in Iſrael.

And Naaman came, and ſtood at the Door of the Houſe of Eliſha. And Eliſha ſent unto him, ſaying, Go and waſh in Jordan ſeven Times, and thy Fleſh ſhall come again, and thou ſhalt be clean.

But Naaman ſaid, I thought, He will come out to me and ſtand, and call on the Name of the Lord his GOD, and ſtrike his Hand over the Place, and recover the Leper.

Are not Abana and Pharphar, Rivers of Damaſcus, better than all the Waters of Iſrael? May I not waſh in them and be clean? So he turned and went away in a Rage.

And his Servants came near, and ſaid unto him, My Father, if the Prophet had bid thee do ſome great Thing, wouldſt thou not have done it? How much rather then, when he ſaith unto thee, Waſh and be clean?

[u] C. 5. V. 1, &c.

Then

Then he went down and dipped himſelf ſeven Times in Jordan, according to the Saying of the Man of God. And his Fleſh came again, like unto the Fleſh of a little Child, and he was clean.

And he returned to the Man of God, and ſaid, Now I know there is no God in all the Earth, but in Iſrael. Now therefore I pray thee, take a Bleſſing of thy Servant.

But he ſaid, As the Lord liveth, before whom I ſtand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it, but he refuſed.

And Naaman ſaid, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy Servant two Mules Burden of Earth? For thy Servant will henceforth offer neither Burnt-Offering nor Sacrifice unto other Gods, but unto the Lord.

In this Thing the Lord pardon thy Servant, that when my Maſter went into the Houſe of [u] Rimmon to worſhip there, and he leaned on my Hand, I uſed to bow myſelf, in the Houſe of Rimmon. That I bowed myſelf in the Houſe of Rimmon, the Lord pardon thy Servant in this Thing.

And he ſaid unto him, Go in Peace. So he departed from him a little Way.

But Gehazi ſaid, I will run after this Syrian, and take ſomewhat of him.

And when Naaman ſaw him, he lighted down from the Chariot and ſaid, Is all well?

And he ſaid, All is well: my Maſter hath ſent me ſaying, There are come to me two of the Sons of the Prophets: Give me, I pray thee, a Talent of Silver, and two Changes of Garments.

And Naaman ſaid, Take two Talents. And he bound two Talents of Silver in two Bags, with two Changes of Garments, and laid them on two of his Servants, and they bare them before him.

And when he came to the Tower, he took and beſtowed them in the Houſe, and let the Men go.

And he went in and ſtood before his Maſter. And Eliſha ſaid, Whence comeſt thou, Gehazi? And he ſaid, Thy Servant went no whither.

[u] *The great Idol of the Syrians.* And

And he ſaid, Went not mine Heart with thee, when the Man turned again from his Chariot to meet thee?

The Leproſy of Naaman ſhall cleave to thee and unto thy Seed for ever. And he went out from his Preſence, a Leper as white as Snow.

LESSON XLII.

Of Eliſha *and the* Syrians.

[w] Then the King of Syria warred againſt Iſrael, and took Counſel with his Servants, ſaying, In ſuch a Place ſhall be my Camp.

And Eliſha ſent unto the King of Iſrael, ſaying, Beware thou paſs not ſuch a Place; for thither the Syrians will come down.

Therefore the Heart of the King of Syria was ſore troubled, and he ſaid, Will ye not ſhew me which of us is for the King of Iſrael?

And one of his Servants ſaid, None, my Lord; but Eliſha the Prophet telleth the King of Iſrael the Words thou ſpeakeſt in thy Bed-chamber.

And he ſaid, Where is he, that I may ſend and fetch him? And they ſaid, Behold he is in Dothan.

Therefore he ſent thither Horſes and Chariots and a great Hoſt, and they came by Night and compaſt the City.

And when the Servant of Eliſha roſe, behold an Hoſt compaſt the City, both with Horſes and Chariots.

And Eliſha ſaid, Fear not; for they that be with us, are more than they that be with them.

And Eliſha ſaid, Lord, I pray thee, open his Eyes, that he may ſee. And the Lord opened the Eyes of the young Man and he ſaw: and behold the Mountain was full of Horſes and Chariots of Fire, round about Eliſha.

And Eliſha prayed unto the Lord, Smite this People with Blindneſs. And he ſmote them with Blindneſs.

And Eliſha ſaid unto them, This is not the Way; follow me. But he had led them to Samaria.

And Eliſha ſaid, Lord, open the Eyes of theſe Men. And the Lord open'd their Eyes, and behold they were in the midſt of Samaria.

[w] c. 6, v. 8, &c.

And

And the King of Iſrael ſaid unto Eliſha, My Father, ſhall I ſmite them?

And he anſwer'd, Woudſt thou ſmite thoſe whom thou hadſt taken Captive with thy Sword and with thy Bow? Set Bread and Water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their Maſter.

And when they had eaten and drank, he ſent them away, and they went to their Maſter.

And after this, Benhadad King of Syria, gathered all his Hoſt, and went and beſieged Samaria.

And there was a great Famine in Samaria, ſo that an Aſs's Head was ſold for four-ſcore Pieces of Silver.

[x] Then Eliſha ſaid, Thus ſaith the Lord, To-morrow, about this Time, ſhall a Meaſure of fine Flour be ſold for a [y] Sheckel, and two Meaſures of Barley for a Sheckel, in the Gate of Samaria.

Then a Lord, on whoſe Hand the King leaned, ſaid, Behold, if the Lord would make Windows in Heaven, might this Thing be? And he ſaid, Thou ſhalt ſee it, but ſhalt not eat thereof.

And there were four leprous Men at the Gate of the City, and they ſaid, Why ſit we here until we die?

Let us go to the Syrians: If they ſave us alive we ſhall live; and if they kill us we ſhall but die.

And when they were come to the Camp of Syria, behold, there was no Man there.

For the Lord had made the Syrians to hear a Noiſe of Chariots and Horſes, even the Noiſe of a great Hoſt.

Wherefore they aroſe in the Twi-light, and left their Tents, even the Camp as it was, and fled for their Life.

And the Lepers ſaid one to another, Come, and let us go and tell the King's Houſhold.

So they came and called unto the Porter of the City, and ſaid, We came to the Camp of the Syrians, and there was no Man there.

And the King ſaid unto his Servants, The Syrians know that we are hungry, therefore are they gone to hide themſelves in the Field, ſaying, When they come out of the City we ſhall catch them alive, and get into the City.

[x] c. 7. v. 1. &c. [y] *Two Shillings and Threepence.*

And the King ſent two Horſe-men after the Syrians, ſaying, Go and ſee.

And they went after them to Jordan, and lo all the way was full of Garments and Veſſels which they had caſt away in their haſte; and they returned and told the King.

And the People went out and ſpoiled the Tents of the Syrians. So a Meaſure of fine Flower was ſold for a Shekel, and two Meaſures of Barley for a Shekel.

And the King appointed the Lord on whoſe Hand he leaned, to have the Charge of the Gate. And the People trod upon him in the Gate, and he died, as the Man of GOD had ſaid.

LESSON XLIII.

Jehu *made King.* *The Death of* Jezebel.

[z] And Eliſha called one of the Children of the Prophets and ſaid, Take this Box of Oyl, and go to Ramoth-gilead.

And look out Jehu the Son of Jehoſhaphat the Son of Nimſhi; and pour the Oyl on his Head, ſaying, Thus ſaith the Lord, I have anointed thee King over Iſrael.

So he went to Ramoth-gilead, and the Captains of the Hoſt were ſitting, and he ſaid to Jehu, I have an Errand to thee, O Captain!

And he aroſe and went into the Houſe. And he poured the Oyl on his Head, and ſaid, Thus ſaith the Lord, I have anointed Thee King over Iſrael.

And thou ſhalt ſmite the whole Houſe of Ahab, that I may avenge the Blood of my Servants the Prophets. And he opened the Door and fled.

Then Jehu came to the Captains. And one ſaid unto him, Wherefore came this mad Fellow to Thee?

And he ſaid, He ſpake to me ſaying, Thus ſaith the Lord, I have anointed thee King over Iſrael.

Then they haſted, and blew with Trumpets, ſaying, Jehu is King.

And Jehu ſaid, If it be your Minds, let none go forth out of the City to tell it in Jezreel.

[z] c. 19. v. i, &c.

So

So Jehu rode in a Chariot and went to Jezreel, (for Joram, King of Iſrael was there, and Ahazia, King of Judah, was come down to ſee Joram.)

And there ſtood a Watch-man on the Tower in Jezreel, and he ſaid, I ſee a Company. And Joram ſaid, Take a Horſe-man, and ſend to meet them, and let him ſay, Is it Peace?

So there went one to meet him, and ſaid, Is it Peace? And Jehu ſaid, What haſt thou to do with Peace? Turn thee behind me.

And the Watch-man ſaid, He came unto them, and cometh not again: And the driving is like the driving of Jehu the Son of Nimſhi, for he driveth furiouſly.

And Joram ſaid, Make ready. And his Chariot was made ready. And Joram King of Iſrael and Ahazia King of Judah went out againſt Jehu, and met him in the Portion of Naboth the Jezreelite.

And when Joram ſaw Jehu he ſaid, Is it Peace, Jehu? And he anſwered, What Peace, ſo long as the Whoredoms of thy Mother Jezebel, and her Witchcrafts are ſo many?

And Joram turned his Hands and fled, and ſaid, There is Treachery, O Ahaziah!

And Jehu drew a Bow with his full Strength and ſmote Joram between his Arms, and the Arrow went out at his Heart, and he ſunk down in his Chariot.

Then ſaid Jehu to Bidkar his Captain, Take up and caſt him in the Portion of Naboth the Jezreelite.

But Ahaziah fled. And Jehu followed after him, and ſaid, Smite him alſo in the Chariot. And they did ſo, at the going up to Gur: And he fled to Megiddo and died there.

And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it, and ſhe painted her Face and tied her Head and looked out at a Window.

And as Jehu entered in at the Gate, ſhe ſaid, Had Zimri Peace, who ſlew his Maſter?

And he lift up his Face to the Window and ſaid, Who is on my Side, who? And there looked out two or three Eunuchs.

And he ſaid, Throw her down. So they threw her down, and ſome of her Blood was ſprinkled on the Wall, and on the Horſes, and he trod her under Foot.

And when he was come in he ſaid, Go ſee now this curſed Woman and bury her; for ſhe is a King's Daughter.

And they went to bury her: But they found no more of her than the Scull, and the Feet, and the Palms of her Hands.

Wherefore they came again and told him. And he ſaid, This is the Word of the Lord which he ſpake by his Servant Elijah, ſaying, In the Portion of Jezreel, ſhall Dogs eat the Fleſh of Jezebel.

And the Carcaſe of Jezebel ſhall be as Dung upon the Face of the Field, ſo that they ſhall not ſay, This is Jezebel.

LESSON XLIV.

Jehu *deſtroys* Ahab's *Houſe and the Worſhippers of* Baal.

[a] And Jehu had ſeventy Sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote Letters to them that brought them up, ſaying,

Now as ſoon as the Letters cometh to you, ſeeing there are with you Chariots and Horſes, a fenced City alſo and Armour,

Look out the meeteſt of your Maſter's Sons, and ſet him on his Father's Throne, and fight for your Maſter's Houſe.

But they were exceedingly afraid and ſaid, Behold two Kings ſtood not before him: how ſhall we ſtand?

And they ſent to Jehu ſaying, We are thy Servants, and will do all that thou ſhalt bid us.

Then he wrote the ſecond Time, ſaying, If ye will hearken unto my Voice, take ye the Heads of your Maſter's Sons and come to me to Jezreel.

And they took the King's Sons and ſlew them, and put their Heads in Baſkets, and ſent him them to Jezreel.

And he ſaid to all the People, There ſhall fall unto the Earth, nothing of the Word of the Lord concerning the Houſe of Ahab; the Lord hath done that which he ſpake by his Servant Elijah.

So Jehu ſlew all that remained of the Houſe of Ahab, until he left him none remaining.

[a] 2 K. 10. v. 1, &c. And

And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the Son of Rechab. And he bleſſed him and ſaid unto him, Is thy Heart right, as my Heart is with thy Heart? And Jehonadab ſaid, It is. If it be, give me thy Hand. And he gave him his Hand; and he took him up to him into the Chariot.

And he ſaid, Come with me, and ſee my Zeal for the Lord. So he made him ride in his Chariot.

And Jehu gathered all the People together and ſaid unto them, Call unto me all the Prophets of Baal, all his Servants and all his Prieſts, let none be wanting. For I have a great Sacrifice to do to Baal. Whoſoever ſhall be wanting he ſhall not live. But Jehu did it in Subtilty, that he might deſtroy the Worſhippers of Baal.

And Jehu ſaid, Proclaim a ſolemn Aſſembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it.

And Jehu ſent thro' all Iſrael, and all the Worſhippers of Baal came, ſo that there was not a Man left that came not. And they came into the Houſe of Baal, and it was full from one End to another.

And he ſaid unto him that was over the Veſtry, Bring forth Veſtments for all the Worſhippers of Baal. And he brought them forth Veſtments.

And Jehu went into the Houſe of Baal, and ſaid, Search and look that there be here with you, none of the Servants of the Lord, but the Worſhippers of Baal only.

And when they went in to offer Sacrifices, Jehu appointed fourſcore Men without, and ſaid, If any of the Men whom I have brought into your Hands eſcape, he that letteth him go, his Life ſhall be for the Life of him.

And as ſoon as he had offered the Burnt-offering, Jehu ſaid to the Guard and to the Captains, Go in and ſlay them, let none come forth. And they ſmote them with the Edge of the Sword.

And they brought forth the Images out of the Houſe of Baal, and burnt them. And they brake down the Image of Baal, and the Houſe of Baal, and made it a Draught-houſe unto this Day. Thus Jehu deſtroyed Baal out of Iſrael.

And when he was come in he ſaid, Go ſee now this curſed Woman and bury her; for ſhe is a King's Daughter.

And they went to bury her: But they found no more of her than the Scull, and the Feet, and the Palms of her Hands.

Wherefore they came again and told him. And he ſaid, This is the Word of the Lord which he ſpake by his Servant Elijah, ſaying, In the Portion of Jezreel, ſhall Dogs eat the Fleſh of Jezebel.

And the Carcaſe of Jezebel ſhall be as Dung upon the Face of the Field, ſo that they ſhall not ſay, This is Jezebel.

LESSON XLIV.

Jehu *deſtroys* Ahab's *Houſe and the Worſhippers of* Baal.

[a] And Jehu had ſeventy Sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote Letters to them that brought them up, ſaying,

Now as ſoon as the Letters cometh to you, ſeeing there are with you Chariots and Horſes, a fenced City alſo and Armour,

Look out the meeteſt of your Maſter's Sons, and ſet him on his Father's Throne, and fight for your Maſter's Houſe.

But they were exceedingly afraid and ſaid, Behold two Kings ſtood not before him: how ſhall we ſtand?

And they ſent to Jehu ſaying, We are thy Servants, and will do all that thou ſhalt bid us.

Then he wrote the ſecond Time, ſaying, If ye will hearken unto my Voice, take ye the Heads of your Maſter's Sons and come to me to Jezreel.

And they took the King's Sons and ſlew them, and put their Heads in Baſkets, and ſent him them to Jezreel.

And he ſaid to all the People, There ſhall fall unto the Earth, nothing of the Word of the Lord concerning the Houſe of Ahab; the Lord hath done that which he ſpake by his Servant Elijah.

So Jehu ſlew all that remained of the Houſe of Ahab, until he left him none remaining.

[a] 2 K. 10. v. 1, &c. And

And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the Son of Rechab. And he bleſſed him and ſaid unto him, Is thy Heart right, as my Heart is with thy Heart? And Jehonadab ſaid, It is. If it be, give me thy Hand. And he gave him his Hand; and he took him up to him into the Chariot.

And he ſaid, Come with me, and ſee my Zeal for the Lord. So he made him ride in his Chariot.

And Jehu gathered all the People together and ſaid unto them, Call unto me all the Prophets of Baal, all his Servants and all his Prieſts, let none be wanting. For I have a great Sacrifice to do to Baal. Whoſoever ſhall be wanting he ſhall not live. But Jehu did it in Subtilty, that he might deſtroy the Worſhippers of Baal.

And Jehu ſaid, Proclaim a ſolemn Aſſembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it.

And Jehu ſent thro' all Iſrael, and all the Worſhippers of Baal came, ſo that there was not a Man left that came not. And they came into the Houſe of Baal, and it was full from one End to another.

And he ſaid unto him that was over the Veſtry, Bring forth Veſtments for all the Worſhippers of Baal. And he brought them forth Veſtments.

And Jehu went into the Houſe of Baal, and ſaid, Search and look that there be here with you, none of the Servants of the Lord, but the Worſhippers of Baal only.

And when they went in to offer Sacrifices, Jehu appointed fourſcore Men without, and ſaid, If any of the Men whom I have brought into your Hands eſcape, he that letteth him go, his Life ſhall be for the Life of him.

And as ſoon as he had offered the Burnt-offering, Jehu ſaid to the Guard and to the Captains, Go in and ſlay them, let none come forth. And they ſmote them with the Edge of the Sword.

And they brought forth the Images out of the Houſe of Baal, and burnt them. And they brake down the Image of Baal, and the Houſe of Baal, and made it a Draught-houſe unto this Day. Thus Jehu deſtroyed Baal out of Iſrael.

And the Lord ſaid unto Jehu, Becauſe thou haſt done well, in executing that which is right in mine Eyes, thy Children of the Fourth Generation ſhall ſit on the Throne of Iſrael.

But Jehu took no heed to walk in the Law of the Lord GOD of Iſrael with all his Heart; for he departed not from the Sins of Jeroboam, who made Iſrael to ſin.

LESSON XLV.

Iſrael *carried into Captivity.*

[b] And Shalmaneſer King of Aſſyria came up againſt Iſrael, and Hoſhea the King became his Servant.

But the King of Aſſyria found Conſpiracy in Hoſhea; therefore he ſhut him up and bound him in Priſon.

Then the King of Aſſyria came up to Samaria, and beſieged it three Years.

In the ninth Year of Hoſhea, the King of Aſſyria took Samaria, and carried Iſrael away into Aſſyria; and placed them in Halah and in Habor, by the River of Gozan, and in the Cities of the Medes.

For the Children of Iſrael had ſinned againſt the Lord their GOD, and had ſerved other Gods,

And walked in the Statutes of the Heathen, whom the Lord caſt out before the Children of Iſrael.

And they ſet up Images in every high Hill, and under every green Tree.

Yet the Lord teſtified againſt Iſrael and againſt Juda by all the Prophets, ſaying, Turn ye from your evil Ways.

Notwithſtanding they would not hear, but harden'd their Necks, like their Fathers, that did not believe in the Lord their GOD.

And they rejected his Covenant that he made with their Fathers, and left all the Commandments of the Lord their GOD.

[b] c. 17, v. 3. &c.

And

And they uſed Inchantments, and ſold themſelves to do Evil in the Sight of the Lord.

Therefore the Lord removed Iſrael out of his Sight; there was none left but the Tribe of Judah.

And the Lord rejected all the Seed of Iſrael, and afflicted them, until he had caſt them out of his Sight.

For he rent Iſrael from the Houſe of David, and they made Jeroboam the Son of Nebat King; and Jeroboam made two Calves and drave Iſrael from following the Lord, and made them ſin a great Sin.

For the Children of Iſrael walked in all the Sins of Jeroboam, until the Lord removed Iſrael out of his Sight.

And the King of Aſſyria brought Men from Babylon and from Hamath, and placed them in the Cities of Samaria, inſtead of the Children of Iſrael, and they poſſeſſed Samaria, and dwelt in the Cities thereof.

And ſo it was, at the Beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the Lord: therefore the Lord ſent Lions among them, which ſlew ſome of them.

Then the King of Aſſyria commanded, ſaying, Carry thither one of the Prieſts whom ye brought from thence, and let him go and dwell there, and teach them the Manner of the GOD of the Land.

Then one of the Prieſts came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they ſhould fear the Lord.

Howbeit every Nation made Gods of their own, in the Cities wherein they dwelt.

So they feared the Lord, and ſerved their own Gods, after the Manner of the Nations.

They feared the Lord, and ſerved their graven Images, both their Children and their Childrens Children: as did their Fathers, ſo do they unto this Day.

LESSON XLVI.

Of Hezekiah *and* Sennacherib.

[c] Hezekiah King of Judah did that which was right in the Sight of the Lord, according as David his Father did.

He truſted in the Lord GOD of Iſrael, and clave to the Lord, and departed not from following him.

In the fourteenth Year of Hezekiah, Sennacherib King of Aſſyria, came up againſt all the fenced Cities of Judah.

And the King of Aſſyria ſent Tartan and Rabſaris and Rab-ſhakeh with a great Hoſt againſt Jeruſalem.

And there came out to them Eliakim the Son of Hilkiah, and Joah the Son of Aſaph the Recorder.

And Rab-ſhakeh ſaid, Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus ſaith the great King, the King of Aſſyria, Thou ſayeſt (but they are but vain Words) I have Counſel and Strength for the War:

Now behold thou truſteſt upon the Staff of this bruiſed Reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a Man lean, it will go into his Hand and pierce it.

How then wilt thou be able to turn away the Face of one Captain of the leaſt of my Maſter's Servants?

Then ſaid Eliakim, Speak, I pray thee, in the Syrian Language, for we underſtand it: and talk not with us in the Jews Language, in the Ears of the People that are on the Wall.

But Rab-ſhakeh ſaid, Hath my Maſter ſent me to thy Maſter? Hath he not ſent me to the Men that ſit on the Wall?

Then Rab-ſhakeh cried with a loud Voice, Thus ſaith the great King, Let not Hezekiah deceive you:

Neither let Hezekiah make you truſt in the Lord, ſaying, The Lord will ſurely deliver us.

Hath any of the Gods of the Nations deliver'd his Land, out of the Hand of the King of Aſſyria?

[c] c. 18. v. 3, &c.

Then

Then came Eliakim and Joah to Hezekiah with their Cloaths rent, and told him the Words of Rab-ſhakeh.

[d] And when King Hezekiah heard it, he rent his Cloaths, and covered himſelf with Sackcloth, and went into the Houſe of the Lord.

And he ſent the Elders of the Prieſts, covered with Sackcloth, to Iſaiah the Prophet, ſaying, This Day is a Day of Trouble and Rebuke and Blaſphemy; for the Children are come to the Birth, and there is not Strength to bring forth.

It may be the Lord thy God will hear all the Words of Rab-ſhakeh, whom the King of Aſſyria his Maſter hath ſent to reproach the Living God. Wherefore lift up thy Prayer for the Remnant that are left.

And the King of Aſſyria ſent Meſſengers again unto Hezekiah, ſaying, Let not thy God in whom thou truſteſt deceive thee.

Have the Gods of the Nations deliver'd them, which my Fathers have deſtroyed?

And Hezekiah went up into the Houſe of the Lord, and ſpread the Letter before the Lord.

And Hezekiah ſaid, O Lord God of Iſrael, Thou art the God even Thou alone, of all the Kingdoms of the Earth; Thou haſt made Heaven and Earth.

O Lord, bow down thine Ear and hear; open Lord thine Eyes and ſee.

Of a Truth, Lord, the Kings of Aſſyria have deſtroyed the Nations, and caſt their Gods into the Fire, for they were no Gods. Now therefore, O Lord, our God, I beſeech Thee, ſave us out of his Hand; that all the Kingdoms of the Earth may know, that Thou art the Lord, and Thou only.

Then Iſaiah ſent to Hezekiah ſaying, That which thou haſt prayed againſt Sennacherib I have heard.

This is the Word that the Lord hath ſpoken concerning him. Whom haſt thou reproached? even the Holy One of Iſrael.

[d] c. 19, v. 1, &c.

Thou haſt ſaid, With the Multitude of my Chariots I am come up to the Sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall Cedars thereof.

But I will put my Hook in thy Noſe and my Bridle in thy Lips, and I will turn thee back by the Way by which thou cameſt.

Thus ſaith the Lord concerning the King of Aſſyria, By the Way that he came ſhall he return. I will ſend a Blaſt upon him, and he ſhall return to his own Land, and ſhall fall by the Sword in his own Land.

And it came to paſs that Night, that the Angel of the Lord went out, and ſmote in the Camp of the Aſſyrians, an hundred four-ſcore and five thouſand.

So Sennacherib King of Aſſyria departed, and returned and dwelt at Nineveh.

And it came to paſs, as he was worſhipping in the Houſe of Niſroch his God, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his Sons, ſmote him with the Sword. And they eſcaped into the Land of Armenia. And Eſarhaddon his Son reigned in his ſtead.

LESSON XLVII.

Of Joſiah.

[c] Joſiah was eight Years old when he began to reign in Jeruſalem. And in the eighteenth Year of King Joſiah the King ſent Shaphan the Scribe to the Houſe of the Lord,

Saying, Go up to Hilkiah the High-Prieſt, and let him give the Silver that is gathered, to the Doers of the Work, that they may repair the Breaches of the Houſe of the Lord.

And Hilkiah ſaid unto Shaphan, I have found the Book of the Law in the Houſe of the Lord, and he gave the Book to Shaphan.

And Shaphan ſaid unto the King, Hilkiah hath delivered me a Book; and Shaphan read it before the King.

[c] c. 22. v. 1, &c.

And

And when the King had heard it, he rent his Cloaths, and commanded Hilkiah and Shaphan ſaying,

Go ye, enquire of the Lord, for great is the Wrath of the Lord that is kindled againſt us, becauſe our Fathers have not hearkened unto the Words of this Book.

So Hilkiah and Shaphan went unto Huldah the Propheteſs, and they communed with her.

And ſhe ſaid unto them, Thus ſaith the Lord, I will bring Evil upon all the Inhabitants of this Place;

Becauſe they have forſaken me, and provoked me to Anger with the Works of their Hands; therefore my Wrath is kindled againſt this Place, and ſhall not be quenched.

But to the King of Judah which ſent you, thus ſaith the Lord, Becauſe thine Heart was tender, and thou haſt humbled thyſelf before the Lord, when thou heardeſt what I ſpake againſt this Place:

I will gather thee unto thy Fathers, and thine Eyes ſhall not ſee all the Evil which I will bring upon this Place.

[f] And the King ſent and gathered all the Elders of Judah, and the Prieſts and the Prophets and all the People both ſmall and great.

And the King ſtood by a Pillar in the Houſe of the Lord, and read in their Ears all the Words of the Book of the Covenant.

And he made a Covenant before the Lord, to walk before the Lord, and to keep his Commandments with all their Heart and with all their Soul, to perform the Words of this Covenant written in this Book: and all the People ſtood to the Covenant.

And the King commanded to bring forth out of the Temple of the Lord, all the Veſſels that were made for Baal, and for the Sun and the Moon, and for all the Hoſt of Heaven, and he burnt them in the Fields of Kidron.

And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Children of Hinnom, that none might make his Son or his Daughter paſs thro' the Fire to Moloch.

[f] c. 23, v. 1, &c.

And

And he brake in Pieces the Images, and cut down the Groves, and filled their Places with the Bones of Men.

Moreover the Altar which was at Bethel, which Jeroboam had made, he brake down and ſtampt it to Powder.

And he ſlew the Prieſts of the [g] high Places upon the Altar, and burnt Mens Bones upon it.

Then he ſaid, What Title is that I ſee? And the Men of the City ſaid, It is the Sepulcher of the Man of GOD which came from Judah, and proclaimed theſe Things that thou haſt done againſt the Altar of Bethel.

And the King commanded all the People, ſaying, Keep the Paſſover unto the Lord, as it is written in the Book of this Covenant.

Surely there was not holden ſuch a Paſſover, in all the Days of the Kings of Iſrael or of Judah.

Moreover the Wizards and the Idols, and all the Abominations that were in the Land, did Joſiah put away.

And like unto him there was no King before him that turned to the Lord with all his Heart, and with all his Soul.

Nevertheleſs the Lord turned not from the Fierceneſs of his Wrath, wherewith his Anger was kindled againſt Judah.

And the Lord ſaid, I will remove Judah alſo out of my Sight, as I have removed Iſrael.

[h] And Necho, King of Egypt came up to fight againſt Carchemiſh; and Joſiah went out againſt him.

But he ſent Ambaſſadors to him, ſaying, What have I to do with thee, thou King of Judah? I come not againſt thee this Day, but againſt Aſſyria; forbear thee from meddling with GOD, who is with me, that he deſtroy thee not.

Nevertheleſs King Joſiah would not turn his Face from him, but diſguiſed himſelf that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the Words of Necho, from the Mouth of GOD.

[g] *in which they ſacrificed to Idols.*

[h] 2. *Chronicles.* c. 35. v. 20, &c.

And

And the Archers ſhot at King Joſiah; and he ſaid to his Servants, Have me away, for I am ſore wounded.

And they brought him in a Chariot dead to Jeruſalem, and all Judah and Jeruſalem mourned for him.

LESSON XLVIII.

Jeruſalem *deſtroy'd.*

[i] In the Days of Jehoiakim, the Son of Joſiah, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon came up: and Jehoiakim became his Servant three Years; then he turned and rebelled againſt him.

And the Lord ſent Bands of the Chaldees and Bands of Syrians againſt Judah to deſtroy it.

Surely at the Commandment of the Lord came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his Sight.

And the Servants of Nebuchadnezzar came up againſt Jeruſalem, and the City was beſieged.

And Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon came againſt the City. And Jehoiachin the King of Judah went out to him, and the King of Babylon carried him to Babylon.

And he carried out thence all the Treaſures of the Houſe of the Lord, and all the Treaſures of the King's Houſe.

And he carried away all Jeruſalem and all the Princes and all the Men of Valour, and all the Crafts-Men and Smiths Captive to Babylon; none remained, ſave the pooreſt Sort of the People of the Land.

And the King of Babylon made Mattaniah, his Father's Brother, King in his Stead, and changed his Name to Zedekiah.

And he did that which was Evil in the Sight of the Lord. And thro' the Anger of the Lord it came to paſs in Jeruſalem and Judah, until he had caſt them out from his Preſence, that Zedekiah rebelled againſt the King of Babylon.

[i] 2 *Kings*, c. 24. v. 1, *&c.*

And

[k] And it came to paſs, in the ninth Year of his Reign, in the tenth Month, the tenth Day of the Month, that Nebuchadnezzar came, he and all his Hoſt againſt Jeruſalem, and built Forts againſt it round about.

And the City was beſieged unto the eleventh Year of Zedekiah. And on the ninth Day of the fourth Month, the Famine prevailed in the City, and there was no Bread for the People of the Land.

And the City was broken up, and all the Men of War fled by Night, by the Way of the Gate, between two Walls, which is by the King's Garden; and the King went the Way toward the Plain.

And the Army of the Chaldees purſued after the King, and overtook him in the Plains of Jericho; and all his Army were ſcattered from him.

So they took the King and brought him up to the King of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave Judgment upon him.

And they ſlew the Sons of Zedekiah before his Eyes, and put out the Eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with Fetters of Braſs, and carried him to Babylon.

And in the fifth Month, came Nebuzaradan Captain of the Guard, a Servant of the King of Babylon, unto Jeruſalem.

And he burnt the Houſe of the Lord, and the King's Houſe, and all the Houſes of Jeruſalem with Fire.

And all the Army of the Chaldees, that were with him, brake down the Walls of Jeruſalem round about.

And the reſt of the People that were left in the City, did Nebuzaradan carry away.

But the Captain of the Guard left of the Poor of the Land, to be Wine-dreſſers and Huſbandmen.

And he took Seraiah the Chief-Prieſt, and Zephaniah the ſecond Prieſt, and the three Keepers of the Door,

And an Officer that was ſet over the Men of War, and threeſcore Men of the People of the Land,

[k] c. 25. v. 1, &c.

And

And brought them to the King of Babylon, to Riblah; and the King of Babylon ſlew them there. So Judah was carried away out of their Land.

LESSON XLIX.

[l] Now while David kept himſelf cloſe becauſe of Saul, there came unto him of the Children of Benjamin and of Judah.

And David went out to meet them and ſaid, If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine Heart ſhall be knit unto you; but if ye be come to betray me, the GOD of our Fathers look thereon and rebuke it.

Then the Spirit came upon Amaſai, who was chief of the Captains, and he ſaid, Thine are we, David: Peace, Peace be unto thee, and Peace be to thine Helpers; for thy GOD helpeth thee.

[m] And when David was old and full of Days, he aſſembled all the Princes of Iſrael, with the Officers and the mighty Men, and all the valiant Men unto Jeruſalem:

And David the King ſtood upon his Feet and ſaid, Hear me, my Brethren and my People, I had in mine Heart to build an Houſe for the Footſtool of our GOD.

But GOD ſaid unto me, thou ſhalt not build me an Houſe, becauſe thou haſt ſhed much Blood:

Solomon thy Son, he ſhall build my Houſe; for I have choſen him to be my Son, and I will be his Father.

Moreover I will eſtabliſh his Kingdom for ever, if he be conſtant to do my Commandments, and my Judgments.

Now therefore, keep and ſeek for all the Commandments of the Lord your GOD.

And thou, Solomon, know thou the GOD of thy Father, and ſerve him with a perfect Heart and with

[l] 1 *Chronicles*, c. xii, v. 16, *&c.* [m] c. xxviii, v. 1, *&c.*

a willing

a willing Mind: for the Lord ſearcheth all Hearts, and underſtandeth all the Thoughts: if thou ſeek him, he will be found of thee, but if thou forſake him, he will caſt thee off for ever.

Then David gave to Solomon the Pattern of the Porch, and of the Houſe, and of the Chambers, and the Place of the Mercy-ſeat,

And the Pattern of all that he had by the Spirit of the Courts of the Houſe of the Lord.

All this, ſaid David, the Lord made me underſtand in writing by his Hand upon me, even all the Works of this Pattern.

And David ſaid to Solomon, Be ſtrong and of good Courage, fear not, nor be diſmayed; for the Lord GOD, even my GOD, will be with thee; he will not fail thee nor forſake thee, until thou haſt finiſhed all the Work.

[n] And David bleſſed the Lord before all the Congregation, and ſaid, Bleſſed be Thou, Lord GOD, for ever and ever.

Thine, O Lord, is the Greatneſs, and the Power, and the Glory, and the Victory, and the Majeſty. For all that is in the Heaven and in the Earth is thine; thine is the Kingdom, and thou art exalted above all.

Both Riches and Honour come of Thee, and Thou reigneſt over all, and in thine Hand it is to make Great and to give Strength unto all.

Now therefore, O GOD, we thank Thee, and praiſe thy glorious Name.

But who am I, that I ſhould be able to offer ſo willingly? All Things come of Thee; and of thine own have we given Thee.

I know, my GOD, that Thou trieſt the Heart, and haſt Pleaſure in Uprightneſs.

O Lord GOD, keep this for ever in the Heart of thy People, and prepare their Heart unto Thee.

And give unto Solomon my Son a perfect Heart, to keep thy Commandments and thy Statutes.

[n] c. xxix, v. 10, &c.

LESSON

LESSON L.

[o] And King Rehoboam dwelt in Jeruſalem, having Judah and Benjamin on his Side.

And the Prieſts and the Levites that were in all Iſrael reſorted to him out of all their Coaſts:

(For Jeroboam and his Sons had caſt them off from executing the Prieſts Office before the Lord.

And he ordained him Prieſts for the high Places, and for the Devils, and for the Calves that he had made.)

And after them out of all the Tribes of Iſrael, ſuch as ſet their Hearts to ſeek the Lord GOD of Iſrael, came to Jeruſalem, to ſacrifice unto the Lord GOD of their Fathers.

So they made Rehoboam the Son of Solomon ſtrong three Years; for three Years they walked in the Way of David.

[p] But when Rehoboam had ſtrengthened himſelf, he forſook the Law of the Lord, and all Iſrael with him.

And in the fifth Year of King Rehoboam, Shiſhak King of Egypt came up againſt Jeruſalem, becauſe they had tranſgreſſed againſt the Lord.

Then came Shemaiah the Prophet to Rehoboam and the Princes of Judah, and ſaid, Thus ſaith the Lord, Ye have forſaken me, and therefore have I left you in the Hand of Shiſhak.

Whereupon the Princes of Iſrael and the King humbled themſelves, and they ſaid, The Lord is righteous.

Then the Word of the Lord came to Shemaiah, ſaying, They have humbled themſelves, therefore I will not deſtroy them, but I will grant them ſome Deliverance, and my Wrath ſhall not be poured out by the Hand of Shiſhak.

[q] King Aſa did that which was good and right in the Eyes of the Lord his GOD.

[o] 2 *Chronicles*, c. x, 5, *&c.*
[p] c. xii, v. 1, *&c.*
[q] c. xiv, v. 2, *&c.*

And there came out againſt Aſa Zerah the Ethiopian, with an Hoſt of a thouſand Thouſand.

Then Aſa went out againſt him, and they ſet the Battle in Array in the Valley of Zephathah.

And Aſa cried unto the Lord his GOD and ſaid, Lord, it is nothing with Thee to help, whether with many or with them that have no Power. Help us, O Lord our GOD; for we reſt on Thee, and in thy Name we go out againſt this great Multitude. O Lord Thou art our GOD; let not Man prevail againſt Thee.

So the Lord ſmote the Ethiopians before Aſa, and the Ethiopians were overthrown: for they were deſtroyed before the Lord and before his Hoſt, and they carried away much Spoil.

And they ſmote all the Cities round about Gerar; for the Fear of the Lord came upon them.

They ſmote alſo the Tents of Cattle, and carried away Sheep and Camels in Abundance, and returned to Jeruſalem.

[r] And the Spirit of GOD came upon Azariah the Son of Oded: And he went out to meet Aſa and ſaid,

The Lord is with you while ye be with him; and if ye ſeek him, he will be found of you.

Now for a long Seaſon Iſrael hath been without the true GOD, and without a teaching Prieſt, and without Law.

But when in their Trouble they ſought the Lord he was found of them.

Be ye ſtrong therefore: let not your Hands be weak: for your Work ſhall be rewarded.

And when Aſa heard theſe Words, he took Courage, and put away all the Idols out of the Land of Judah and Benjamin.

And he gather'd all Judah and Benjamin together at Jeruſalem in the third Month.

And they enter'd into a Covenant to ſeek the Lord GOD of their Fathers, with all their Heart and with all their Soul.

[r] c. xv, v. 1, &c.

And

And all Judah rejoiced at the Oath; for they had ſworn with all their Heart, and ſought him with their whole Deſire; and the Lord gave them Reſt round about.

[s] In the ſix and thirtieth Year of the Reign of Aſa, Baaſha King of Iſrael came up againſt Judah.

Then Aſa ſent to Benhadad, King of Syria, ſaying, There is a League between me and thee; go, break thy League with Baaſha, King of Iſrael, that he may depart from me.

And Benhadad ſent the Captains of his Armies againſt the Cities of Iſrael.

And Hanani the Seer † came to Aſa and ſaid, Thou haſt relied on the King of Syria, and not relied on the Lord thy God.

Were not the Ethiopians a huge Hoſt? Yet becauſe thou didſt rely on the Lord, he deliver'd them into thine Hand.

For the Eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole Earth, to ſhew himſelf ſtrong in behalf of them whoſe Heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou haſt done fooliſhly.

And Aſa was wroth with the Seer, and put him in a Priſon-houſe.

And Aſa was diſeaſed in his Feet; yet in his Diſeaſe he ſought not to the Lord, but to the Phyſicians.

And Aſa ſlept with his Fathers, and they buried him in his own Sepulchres, which he had made for himſelf in the City of David.

LESSON LI.

[t] And after the Death of Ahab, Jehoſhaphat returned in Peace from Ramoth-gilead to Jeruſalem.

And Jehu the Son of Hanani the Seer went out to meet him and ſaid to King Jehoſhaphat, Shouldſt thou help the ungodly, and [u] love them that hate the Lord? Therefore is Wrath upon thee from before the Lord.

[s] c. xvi, v. 1, *&c.*
[t] c. xix, v. 1, *&c.*
† *that is the Prophet.*
[u] *ſo as to delight in them.*

Nevertheleſs there are good Things found in thee, in that thou haſt prepared thine Heart to ſeek God.

And Jehoſhaphat went through the People, from Beerſheba to Mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the Lord God of their Fathers.

And he ſet Judges in the Land throughout all the Cities of Judah, and ſaid to the Judges, Take heed what ye do; for ye judge not for Man, but for the Lord, who is with you in the Judgment.

Wherefore now let the Fear of the Lord be upon you; there is no Iniquity with him, nor reſpect of Perſons, nor taking of Gifts. Deal courageouſly; and the Lord ſhall be with the Good.

[u] Then there came ſome that told Jehoſhaphat, There cometh a great Multitude againſt thee, from beyond the Sea, on this ſide Syria.

And Jehoſhaphat ſet himſelf to ſeek the Lord, and proclaimed a Faſt throughout all Judah.

And Judah gather'd themſelves together to aſk Help of the Lord: even out of all the Cities they came to ſeek the Lord.

And Jehoſhaphat ſtood in the Congregation of Judah and Jeruſalem, in the Houſe of the Lord,

And ſaid, O Lord God of our Fathers, art not Thou God in Heaven, and ruleſt Thou not over all the Kingdoms of the Heathen? And in thy Hand is there not Power and Might, ſo that none is able to withſtand Thee?

And now behold the Children of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, come to caſt us out of thy Poſſeſſion which Thou haſt given us.

O God, we have no Might againſt this great Company; neither know we what to do; but our Eyes are unto Thee.

Then upon Jahaziel the Son of Zechariah came the Spirit of the Lord in the Midſt of the Congregation.

And he ſaid, Hearken ye all Judah, and ye Inhabitants of Jeruſalem, Thus ſaith the Lord unto you, Be not diſmay'd by Reaſon of this great Multitude; for the Battle is not yours but God's.

[u] c. xx, v. 2, &c.

To-

To-morow go ye down againſt them; ye ſhall find them before the Wilderneſs of Jeruel.

Ye ſhall not need to fight in this Battle: ſtand ſtill and ſee the Salvation of the Lord. Fear not, nor be diſmay'd; for the Lord will be with you.

And Jehoſhaphat bow'd his Head with his Face to the Ground; and all Judah fell before the Lord, worſhipping the Lord.

And the Levites ſtood up to praiſe the Lord GOD of Iſrael, with a loud Voice on high.

And they roſe early, and as they went forth, Jehoſhaphat ſtood and ſaid, Believe in the Lord your GOD, ſo ſhall you be eſtabliſht; believe his Prophets, ſo ſhall ye proſper.

And he appointed Singers to go before the Army, and ſay, Praiſe the Lord; for his Mercy endureth for ever.

And when they began to ſing and to praiſe, the Children of Ammon and Moab ſtood up againſt the Inhabitants of Mount Seir to deſtroy them. And when they made an end of the Inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to deſtroy another.

And when Judah came toward the Watch-tower in the Wilderneſs, they looked unto the Multitude, and behold they were dead Bodies fallen to the Earth, and none eſcaped.

And Jehoſhaphat and his People were three Days in gathering of the Spoil, it was ſo much.

And on the fourth Day they aſſembled themſelves and bleſſed the Lord. And the Fear of GOD was on all the Kingdoms of thoſe Countries, when they had heard, that the Lord fought againſt the Enemies of Iſrael.

So the Realm of Jehoſhaphat was quiet; for his GOD gave him Reſt round about.

And after this did Jehoſhaphat, King of Judah, join himſelf with Ahaziah King of Iſrael, who did very wickedly, to make Ships to go to Tarſhiſh.

Then Eliezer, the Son of Dodavah of Mareſhah propheſied againſt Jehoſaphat, ſaying, Becauſe thou haſt joined thyſelf with Ahaziah, the Lord hath broken thy Works. And the Ships were broken that they were not able to go to Tarſhiſh.

LESSON LII.

[w] Joaſh was ſeven Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty Years in Jeruſalem.

And Joaſh did that which was right in the Sight of the Lord, all the Days of Jehoiada the Prieſt.

But Jehoiada waxed old and full of Days; an hundred and thirty Years old was he when he died.

Now after the Death of Jehoiada, came the Princes of Judah and made Obeiſance to the King; then the King hearkened unto them.

And they left the Houſe of the Lord God of their Fathers and ſerved Idols, and Wrath came upon Judah and Jeruſalem.

Yet he ſent Prophets to them to bring them again unto the Lord; and they teſtified againſt them; but they would not give ear.

And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Zechariah the Son of Jehoiada the Prieſt, who ſtood above the People and ſaid unto them, [x] Thus ſaith God, why tranſgreſs ye the Commandments of the Lord that ye cannot proſper? Becauſe ye have forſaken the Lord, he hath alſo forſaken you.

And they conſpired againſt him, and ſtoned him with Stones, at the Commandment of the King, in the Court of the Houſe of the Lord.

Thus Joaſh the King remembered not the Kindneſs which Jehoiada his Father had done to him.

And at the End of the Year, the Hoſt of Syria came up againſt him; and they came to Judah and Jeruſalem, and deſtroyed all the Princes of the People, and ſent all the Spoil of them unto the King of Damaſcus.

For the Army of the Syrians came with a ſmall Company of Men, and the Lord delivered a very great Hoſt into their Hands; becauſe they had forſaken the Lord God of their Fathers: ſo they executed Judgment againſt Joaſh.

And when they were departed his own Servants conſpired againſt him, and ſlew him on his Bed and he died, and they buried him in the City of David.

[w] c. xxiv, v. 1, &c.

And

And Amaziah his Son reigned in his ſtead. * And Amaziah gathered Judah together. He hired alſo an hundred Thouſand Men out of Iſrael, for an hundred Talents of Silver.

But there came a Man of GOD to him ſaying, O King, let not the Army of Iſrael go with thee; for the Lord is not with Iſrael. GOD hath Power to help and to caſt down.

And Amaziah ſaid, But what ſhall we do for the hundred Talents? The Man of GOD anſwered, The Lord is able to give thee much more than this.

Then Amaziah ſeparated them that were come out of Ephraim, and they returned Home in great Anger.

And Amaziah led forth his People to the Valley of Salt, and ſmote of the Children of Seir ten Thouſand.

But the Soldiers which Amaziah ſent back, fell upon the Cities of Judah, and took much Spoil.

Now after Amaziah was come from the Slaughter of the Edomites, he brought the Gods of the Children of Seir, and ſet them up to be his Gods.

Wherefore the Lord ſent unto him a Prophet which ſaid, Why haſt thou ſought after the Gods of the People, which could not deliver their own People out of thy Hand?

And the King ſaid unto him, Art thou of the King's Counſel? Forbear: why ſhouldſt thou be ſmitten? Then the Prophet forbare, and ſaid, I know that GOD hath determined to deſtroy thee.

Then Amaziah ſent to Joaſh, King of Iſrael, ſaying, Come let us look one another in the Face.

And Joaſh ſent to Amaziah ſaying, The Thiſtle that was in Lebanon ſent to the Cedar that was in Lebanon, ſaying, Give me thy Daughter to my Son to Wife. And there paſſed by a wild Beaſt and trode down the Thiſtle.

Thou haſt ſmitten the Edomites and thy Heart lifteth thee up. Abide at Home. Why ſhouldſt thou fall and Judah with thee?

But Amaziah wou'd not hear. So Joaſh went up, and they looked one another in the Face at Bethſhemeſh.

And Judah was put to the worſe before Iſrael; and they fled every Man to his Tent.

* c. xxv. v. 5, &c.

And

And Joaſh took Amaziah and brought him to Jeruſalem, and brake down the Wall of Jeruſalem.

And he took all the Gold and the Silver that were found in the Houſe of GOD, and the Treaſures of the King's Houſe, and returned to Samaria.

Now after that Amaziah turned away from following the Lord, they made a Conſpiracy againſt him in Jeruſalem. And he fled to Lachiſh: but they ſent to Lachiſh after him and ſlew him there.

LESSON LIII.

[y] Then all the People of Judah took Uzziah and made him King, in the room of his Father Amaziah.

And he did that which was right in the Sight of the Lord. And he ſought GOD in the Days of Zechariah, who had Underſtanding in the Viſions of GOD. And as long as he ſought the Lord, GOD made him to proſper.

And he went forth againſt the Philiſtines. And GOD helped him againſt the Philiſtines, and againſt the Arabians and againſt the Mehunims.

And his Name was ſpread Abroad, even to the entering in of Egypt, and he ſtrengthened himſelf exceedingly.

But when he was ſtrong, his Heart was lifted up. For he tranſgreſſed againſt the Lord his GOD, and went into the Temple of the Lord to burn Incenſe, upon the Altar of Incenſe.

And Azariah the Prieſt went in after him, and with him fourſcore Prieſts of the Lord.

And they withſtood Uzziah the King and ſaid, It appertaineth not unto thee to burn Incenſe unto the Lord; but to the Prieſts. Go out of the Sanctuary, for thou haſt treſpaſſed, neither ſhall it be for thine Honour from the Lord GOD.

Then Uzziah was wrath. And while he was wrath with the Prieſts, the Leproſy roſe in his Forehead. And all the Prieſts thruſt him out, yea, himſelf haſted to go out, before the Lord had ſmitten him.

And Uzziah was a Leper unto the Day of his Death. And Jotham his Son judged the People of the Land.

[y] c. xxvi, v. 1, &c.

Ahaz

[z] Ahaz was twenty Years old when he began to reign, and he did Evil in the Sight of the Lord.

Wherefore the Lord delivered him into the Hand of Pekah, King of Iſrael, who ſmote him with a great Slaughter.

And the Children of Iſrael carried away Captive of their Brethren, two hundred Thouſand Women, Sons and Daughters.

But a Prophet of the Lord was there, whoſe Name was Oded, and he went out before the Hoſt that came to Samaria, and ſaid, Behold, becauſe the Lord was wrath with Judah, he delivered them into your Hand: and ye have ſlain them in a Rage that reacheth up unto Heaven.

And now ye purpoſe to keep under the Children of Judah for Bond-men and Bond-women, but are there not with you, even with you, Sins againſt the Lord your GOD?

Now hear me therefore and deliver the Captives again; for the fierce Wrath of the Lord is upon you.

Then certain of the Heads of the Children of Ephraim ſtood up againſt them that came from the War.

And ſaid, Ye ſhall not bring in the Captives hither, for whereas we have offended againſt the Lord already, ye intend to add more to our Sins; for our Treſpaſs is great, and there is fierce Wrath againſt Iſrael.

So the armed Men left the Captives and the Spoil before the Princes and all the Congregation.

And they roſe up, and took the Captives, and with the Spoil cloathed all that were naked among them, and gave them to eat and to drink, and carried all the Feeble of them upon Aſſes, and brought them to Jericho, to their Brethren. Then they returned to Samaria.

At that Time did King Ahaz ſend unto the Kings of Aſſyria to help him.

And Tilgath-pilleſer King of Aſſyria came unto him and diſtreſſed him, but ſtrengthen'd him not.

And in the Time of his Diſtreſs did he treſpaſs yet more againſt the Lord; for he ſacrificed unto the Gods

[z] c. xxviii, v. 1, &c.

of

of Damaſcus, and made Altars in every Corner of Jeruſalem, and high Places in every City of Judah.

And Ahaz ſlept with his Fathers, and Hezekiah his Son reigned in his Stead.

LESSON LIV.

[a] In the firſt Year of his Reign, in the firſt Month, he open'd the Doors of the Houſe of the Lord.

And he brought in the Prieſts and the Levites and ſaid, Sanctify yourſelves and ſanctify the Houſe of the Lord GOD.

Then the Levites aroſe, and gather'd their Brethren and ſanctified themſelves, and came to cleanſe the Houſe of the Lord.

So they ſanctified the Houſe of the Lord in eight Days, and in the ſixteenth Day of the firſt Month they made an End.

Then Hezekiah roſe early, and went to the Houſe of the Lord, and he commanded the Prieſts to offer ſeven Bullocks and ſeven Rams, for a Sin-offering for the Kingdom and for the Sanctuary and for Judah, on the Altar of the Lord.

And when they had made an End of Offering, the King and all the Congregation bowed themſelves and worſhipped.

And Hezekiah ſaid, Now ye have conſecrated yourſelves unto the Lord, come near and bring Sacrifices and Thank-offerings unto the Lord.

And they brought threeſcore and ten Bullocks, an hundred Rams and two hundred Lambs for a Burnt-Offering unto the Lord.

And the Prieſts were too few to ſlay all the Burnt-Offerings; wherefore the Levites helped them, untill the other Prieſts had ſanctified themſelves; for the Levites were more upright than the Prieſts.

And Hezekiah rejoiced and all the People, that GOD had prepared the People; for the Thing was done ſuddenly.

[a] c. 29. v. 1, &c.

And

[b] And Hezekiah ſent to all Iſrael and Judah ſaying, Come and keep the Paſſover to the Lord GOD of Iſrael.

Turn again unto the Lord, and he will return to the Remnant of you that are eſcaped out of the Hand of the Kings of Aſſyria.

And be not ye like your Fathers, who ſinned againſt the Lord, who therefore gave them up to Deſolation.

Now be ye not ſtiffnecked as your Fathers were; but yield yourſelves unto the Lord, that the Fierceneſs of his Wrath may turn away.

So the Poſts paſſed from City to City, thro' Ephraim and Manaſſeh even unto Zebulon; but they laughed them to Scorn.

Nevertheleſs divers of Aſher and Manaſſeh and Zebulon humbled themſelves and came to Jeruſalem.

Alſo in Judah GOD gave them one Heart, to do the Commandment of the King and of the Princes.

And there aſſembled at Jeruſalem much People, a very great Congregation.

But there were many of the Congregation that were not ſanctified. And Hezekiah prayed for them ſaying,

The good Lord pardon every one that prepareth his Heart to ſeek GOD, the Lord GOD of his Fathers; tho' he be not cleanſed according to the Purification of the Sanctuary. And the Lord hearkened unto him.

And Hezekiah ſpake comfortably unto all the Levites, that taught the good Knowledge of the Lord.

And all the Congregation rejoiced; for ſince the Time of Solomon, there was not the like in Jeruſalem.

Then the Prieſts aroſe and bleſſed the People; and their Prayer came up to the Habitation of his Holineſs, even unto Heaven.

And Hezekiah ſlept with his Fathers, and they buried him in the chief of the Sepulchers of the Sons of David; and Manaſſeh his Son reigned in his Stead.

[c] And Manaſſeh did Evil in the Sight of the Lord: he built Altars for all the Hoſt of Heaven.

And he cauſed his Children to paſs thro' the Fire, alſo he uſed Inchantments and Witchcraft.

[b] c. xxx, v. 1, *&c.*
[c] c. xxxiii, v. 1, *&c.*

And

And he ſet a carved Image in the Houſe of GOD and made Judah to err, and to do worſe than the Heathen.

And the Lord ſpake to Manaſſeh and to his People; but they would not hearken.

Wherefore the Lord brought upon him the Hoſt of the King of Aſſyria, which took Manaſſeh among the Thorns, and bound him with Fetters and carried him to Babylon.

And when he was in Affliction, he beſought the Lord, and humbled himſelf greatly before the GOD of his Fathers.

And prayed unto him, and he was intreated of him, and brought him again to Jeruſalem into his Kingdom.

Then Manaſſeh knew that the Lord he is GOD. And he took away the Strange Gods, and the Idol out of the Houſe of the Lord, and all the Altars he had built in Jeruſalem.

And he repaired the Altar of the Lord, and ſacrificed thereon, and commanded Judah to ſerve the Lord GOD of Iſrael.

Now the reſt of the Acts of Manaſſeh, and his Prayer unto his GOD, behold they are written among the Sayings of the Seers.

So Manaſſeh ſlept with his Fathers, and they buried him in his own Houſe.

F I N I S.